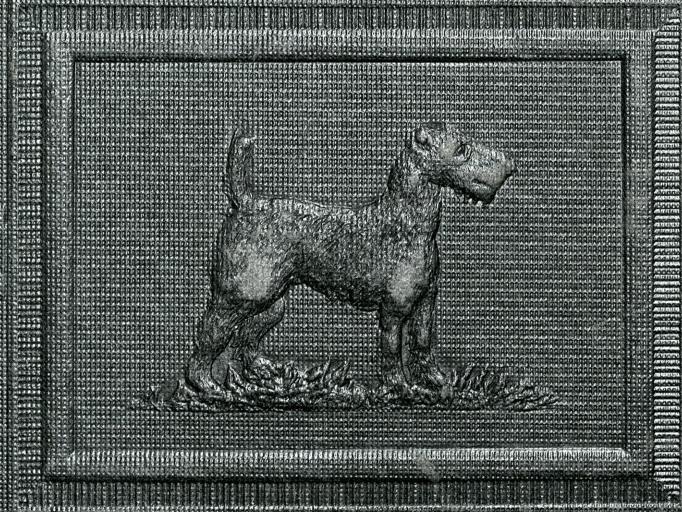


SPIRIT  
BOOK



1881  
1882  
1883

A 19

ASTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
450 TENTH STREET  
ASTORIA, OREGON 97103



... it slid

## Irving Land Still Oozing On Hillside

Irving avenue from 21st to 22nd continued to inch slowly northward down the hill today, with city workmen struggling to repair broken sewers torn apart by the moving earth.

No more families had abandoned their homes in addition to the three that had moved out Monday and Tuesday, but ominous cracks were appearing in basement walls and foundations.

City workmen were repairing a broken drain on 22nd above Irving, on the eastern edge of the block-long slide front, and were trying to locate a break in the sewer line running east and west along Irving.

Irving avenue itself was still passable for vehicles, but had some big bulges and depressions, so that low gear travel was required.

One dwelling, owned by Mrs. C. A. Nyquist at the corner of 21st and Irving, was being stripped of fixtures and apparently was definitely and permanently abandoned. It was tilted at a considerable angle toward the east.

City officials could make no prediction when the slide might stop moving. They said records showed that the area had been subject to slides for many years past.

By sighting along the length of Irving avenue, it can be seen how the whole street has moved several feet northward from its original location.





1000 Watts at 1370

Mutual-Don Lee Network

Fifty-seventh year Evening Budget  
Seventy-sixth year Morning Astorian

# Astorian

WESTWARD THE

Astoria, Oregon, Monday



**IRVING SLIDES AGAIN —**  
These scenes were snapped this morning on Irving avenue, where the earth slid again over the weekend. Upper left, the Charles Ordway home which was abandoned Sunday night has moved three feet away from its chimney. Upper right, looking east on Irving avenue from 20th, it is possible to see how much the sidewalk and street have moved northward from their normal location. Lower, the Skip Nelson home, bent and twisted, now stands about 12 feet below street level. It formerly was almost level with the street. This home has also been abandoned. (A-B Photo.)

## Open Forum

Please limit letters to 300 words. Sign your name, and give address and if possible telephone number for our reference. We do not print unsigned communications, but welcome signed letters on all subjects.

### THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM

#### To The Editor:

In Thursday's paper City Engineer G. T. McClean declared that the drainage system above 21st and 22nd streets on Irving avenue has been constantly maintained by the city.

It is entirely possible that they may have tried to maintain the present system.

But if he is referring to the drainage system installed around the year 1916 it is being kept up entirely different than it was then.

I have lived in that area since 1918 and originally there were large drains directly into the ground, while at present there are ditches being used to carry the water to the different drains, which have smaller openings.

Around 1914 there were lakes, more or less, in that section as there are now. That was one of the reasons for installing the original drains which eliminated these lakes.

And anyone who knows that area will vouch for the fact that it was not a sliding area after that. In fact, one local contractor who had built his home in that area often bragged about living on the straightest street in town after he had been living there for five years.

In recent years the city men tried to locate these drains, but were unable to find them all. Hence the present drainage system which is not operated as the original one was.

For many years the original drainage system kept the hilltop properly drained. But since there were no blueprints of it, and a different system, in a sense, was installed, the lakes sprang up again and the earth movement began very gradually. It has increased every year until the present catastrophe.

Out of the nine homes in the one block they have all been vacated except for three, and they may have to move out at any time.

OSCAR ABRAHAMSON  
22nd and Irving, Astoria.

Sackett Buys



1000 Watts at 1370

Mutual-Don Lee Network

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July 19, 1947

Mr James Convill,  
City Manager.

Dear Sir;

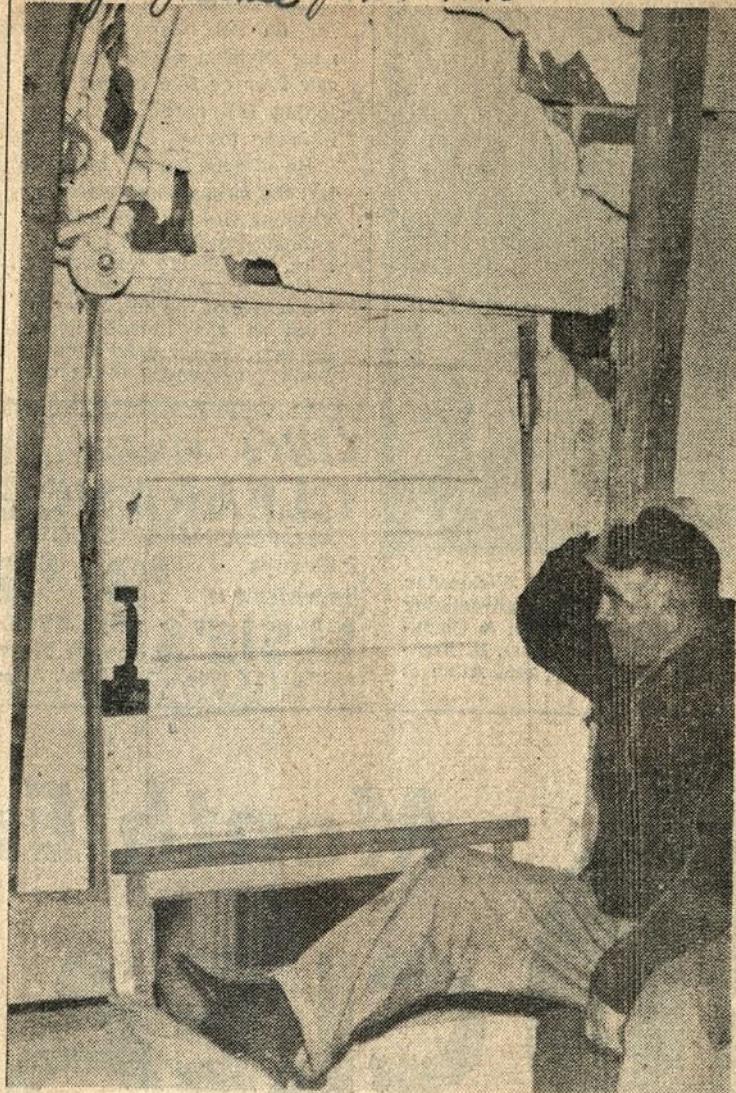
My residence is at 970 Irving between 21st and 22nd streets. The land movement during the last 2 years has caused me to spend nearly \$500.00 for foundation repairs. These repairs did not hold. A part of the trouble is caused by a water course coming out of the hill between mine and adjoining property, owned by Oscar Abrahamsen and flowing all year round. Since my house is located below the street level, the land movement is making cesspool replacement necessary.

If the city will provide drainage and sewer outlet, Mr Abrahamsen and I will pay to the city a total of \$300.00 Ordinarily a part of this would go for cesspool replacement.

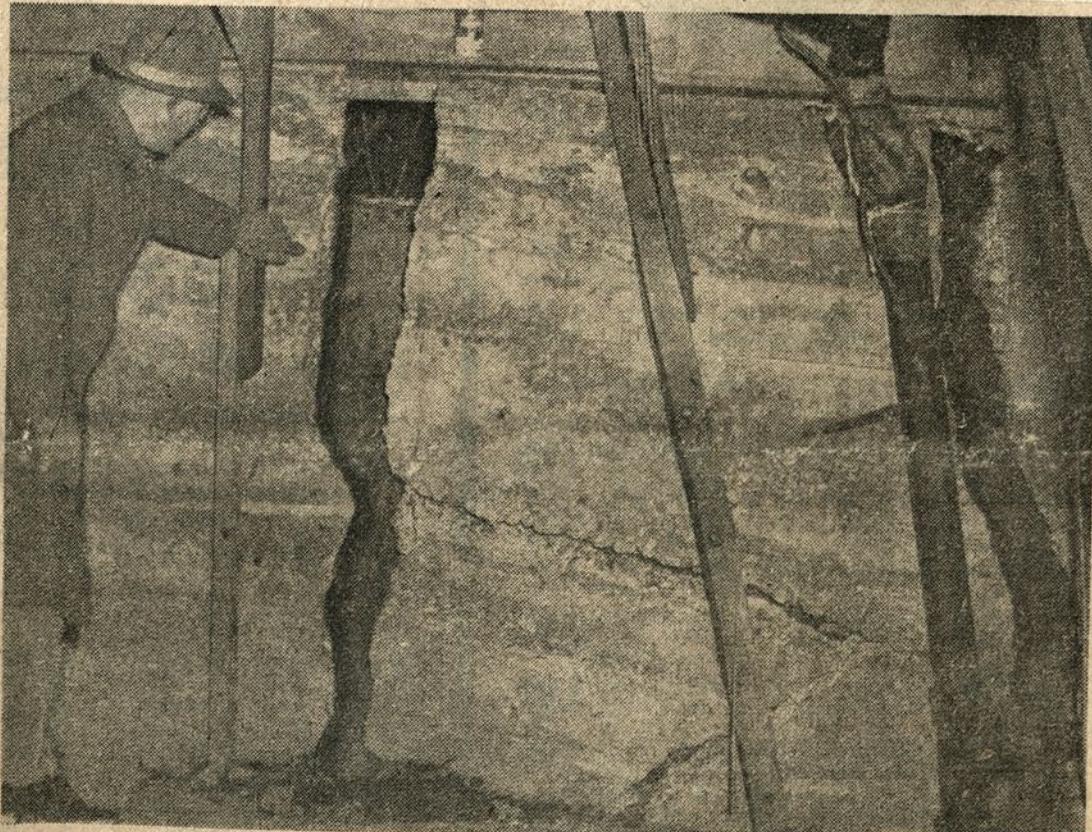
Yours truly,

Lawrence Jackson

Oregon Journal Jan 26, 1950



**TIMBERS SHORED**—Home of Albert Hansen on Irving avenue in Astoria was badly twisted when sliding ground wrecked six homes. Underground water seepage is believed responsible for slide. Hansen is shown looking at his damaged basement door.



**HOME FOUNDATION BREAKS**—Home of Lt. Comdr. A. F. Wayne, skipper of coast guard cutter Ivy, at Astoria, was damaged when ground on Irving avenue, a hillside artery in Astoria, began sliding. The officer moved his family out. Inspecting the foundation is Fred Andrus, editor of Astorian-Budget.

## Residents of Slide Area Blaming City: Deny Warning Given

Residents of the Irving area told the Astorian-Budget today they consider the city of Astoria responsible for the slide condition there, and denied they had ever been warned against building on the area because it was subject to slides.

"The city had a system of drains there before World War I," said Ordway. "When that drainage system plugged up, the sliding condition began. For 20 years the earth did not move in that area."

### Walls Twisted

The Charles Ordway and Albert Hansen home on the south side of Irving had twisted walls, cracked fireplaces, cracked foundations and other damage.

City officials said it is impossible to predict the future regarding the slide there, but that it is "pretty sure" to move some more.

City workmen fought today to repair sewers broken by the slide and a drain higher up the hill that broke Sunday, interfering with drainage of the area.

### Line Put Down

The city has laid a temporary water line for 300 feet on the surface to replace an underground main broken by the slide.

City officials were considering today closing Irving avenue in that area, as the street has been broken and heaved up into waves like a choppy sea. One-way traffic still could get through the block today.

City firemen were called to the Ordway residence at 951 Irving at 3:36 p. m. when a hotwater pipe in the basement broke, filling the basement with steam. The house is one of the nine damaged by the slide in that area.

"We had the city engineer up there and showed him water running through the area, but the city has ignored our complaints," said Mrs. Laurence Jackson.

"We asked for a drain, but didn't get one," said Mrs. Oscar Abrahamson.

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"Two years ago a drain was broken when pavement was laid on 22nd," Ordway said. "It has never been repaired."

Albert "Bud" Hansen said that four years ago the city rejected a request for a drain when he found water flowing through his basement. He declared three lakes exist on the hillside above Irving in that area and that they are not drained.

Ordway said he found a broken drain, leaking water right into the earth above Irving, and that the city had not repaired it.

### Blasting Cited

Residents of the district also said blasting that was done along the ridge in the vicinity during World War II might have helped cause the slide condition.

In addition to the homes listed above, the following families' dwellings have been damaged residents said: B. T. Larson, Albert Hansen, E. E. Rorabaugh, Ralph Abrahamsen, Oscar Abrahamsen, Laurence Jackson and one corner of the Loren Kuske home.

Two more families moved out of their home on Irving avenue between 21st and 22nd streets Monday night and Tuesday. Earth moving slowly down the hill has bent and twisted six homes, has broken water mains and sewers and buckled the street badly.

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The Thomas Nelson family was moving furniture out of its home at 962 Irving, also on the north side, just east of the home abandoned Monday by the G. B. Rush family.

Fire Chief Wayne Osterby said the Nelson home had been badly twisted and might possible tumble over.

Seven other homes were affected by the sliding earth, two on the north side of Irving including a new dwelling owned by Oscar Abrahamson, where a basement wall broke.



# YAMHILL DRUG COMPANY

M. C. ADAMSON, Prop.

Phone 441

YAMHILL, OREGON

Yamhill, Oregon  
Jan 27 1950

## An open letter to the City Officials and The Astorian Budget

Sirs:-

We were quite astounded and somewhat chagrined to note some of the statements in the Budget recently which were attributed to the city manager and other city officials.

Without undue criticism of any one, let us just take a little time and turn back the pages of time - to refresh our memory in regard to conditions along Irving Avenue.

We arrived in Astoria in the fall of 1919 and naturally had to have a place to live - The housing situation was as critical then as it has been at any time since and to obtain a place to live, we paid rent on an unfinished house. Paid for one year in advance, with the privilege of permitting the carpenters to finish after we moved in -

The house was completed and sold and we were given notice that we would have to find another place at the expiration of our lease. no vacancies - the upshot of the thing was that we decided to build for ourselves.

After quite some time spent in looking at various locations and investigating some we settled on a lot on Irving Avenue - We had been told the a fill which had been made, between 18th and 19th streets had slipped down the hill and this caused us some concern - Until Mr Cobban and several others, including the Mayor ( O.B. Setters ) explained to us that through error - Corrugated iron pipes had been placed under the fill for drainage - Winter rains set in and the weight of the fill had collapsed the pipes - Water collected up the draw behind the fill and pressure became too great for the fill to stand - So down the hill it went.

However, they explained, since that had happened - an elaborate drainage system had been installed on the whole face of the hill and I was assured that there was no danger of such a thing ever happening again.

Plans for Irving Avenue were very rosy - It was to become the choice residential street of the city - The only through street above Commercial - The SP&S had plans for a new and modern depot - their grounds were to be landscaped - The fill in Scow bay was to be utilized for a civic center, with parks and modern buildings - the hill up to about where H arrison would come through was to terraced and planted in flowers and shrubs -

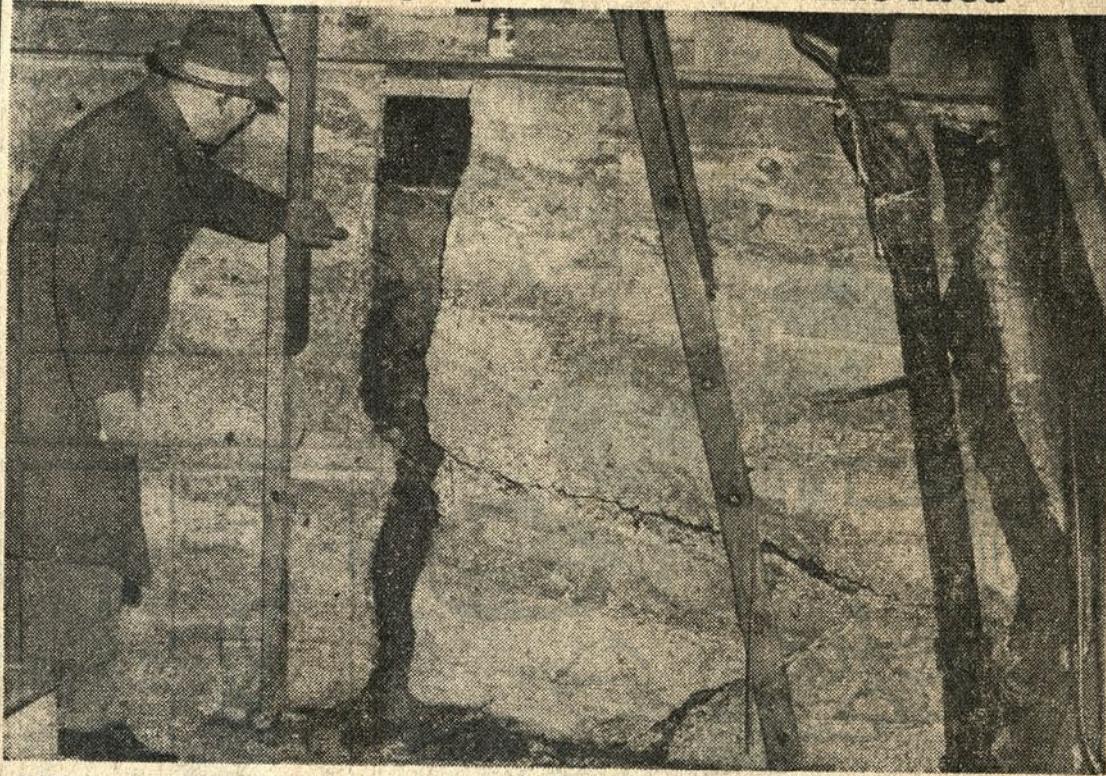
Does this sound anything like a warning not to build ? Do you think that with plans like that, they thought the hill unsafe ?

The home which we built at 962 Irving, we occupied in February 1921 - and we lived there until November 1946, when we moved to Yamhill .

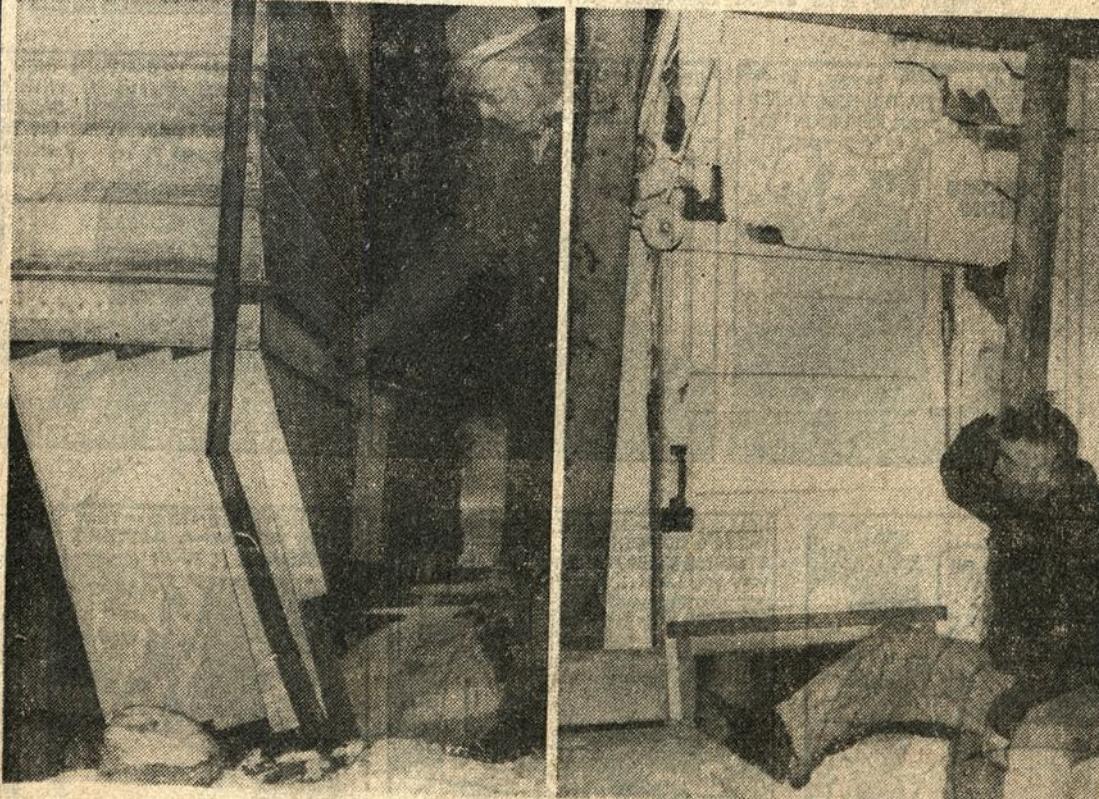
The street was first a gravel street with concrete curbs a few years later - black top paving was laid and we thought that our improvement assessments were just about to be ended - and most of us on the street were well pleased.

That blacktop pavement held up well until the winter of 1945 - We had been in California in the fall and returned home in December - We were quite surprised that rainfall had been so heavy and that the ground around our house had become so soggy - The curb was showing signs of going out of line and the pavement was beginning

## Houses Pulling Apart in Astoria Slide Area



ASTORIA, Jan. 26 (Special)—Slowly moving earth on an Astoria hillside has damaged ten homes and caused three families to move out. Seepage, coupled with alternate freezing and thawing weather, is blamed. Pictured is large crack in basement of home on Irving avenue, caused by pressure of moving earth. Since Friday the slide has traveled nearly six feet.



ASTORIA, Jan. 26 (Special)—This Irving avenue home has moved several feet from its foundation as the result of the earth slippage. City officials have yet to figure out a way to halt the costly hillside menace. The earth is moving seven inches per day.

ASTORIA, Jan. 26 (Special)—Here Albert Hansen ruefully inspects the twisted basement door of his home. The home has been twisted from its original shape by the slide. Temporary sewer lines have been laid in area to replace those broken by earth movement.

## 7 Families Move from Slide Area

Seven families had moved from sliding Irving avenue dwellings today, and three others were sticking it out despite bending walls and cracking foundations along the block between 21st and 22nd streets where the earth has moved some 6 feet since last Friday.

City officials reported Thursday afternoon that the earth had moved only 1 inch in the preceding 24 hours, a much reduced rate of movement. It had been going half a foot or more a day before that.

Seven families had moved from six homes. These included the D.

### Street Blocked

City officials announced that Irving avenue has been barricaded to traffic, except for emergency use and for residents of the area. It will continue blocked until the slide stabilizes and the street can be made usable again.

R. Rush, Anders Gimre, Thomas Nelson, D. R. Wayne, Oscar Abrahamsen, Albert Hansen and Ralph Abrahamsen families.

The B. T. Larson, E. E. Rorbaugh and Charles Ordway families clung grimly to their homes, using jack screws and other methods to try to bolster the dwellings and prevent further damage.

The chimney was removed from the Ordway home Thursday to prevent damage.

Citizens of the slide area, who insist that city neglect of a drainage system caused the slide, were talking of court action against the municipality for damages.

City officials meanwhile did what they could to facilitate drainage of water from the area in an effort to stop the slide, and to repair broken water and sewer lines.

City officials said that the slide area had moved two inches in the past 48 hours, or at the rate of one inch every 24 hours.

# Here's Devastation Caused by Astoria's Creeping Hillside; Where, When Will It Stop?



**DISASTER AREA**—First aerial view of Astoria's creeping mountain reveals destructive force of earth flow which has wiped out 21-house residential area.



**NO PARKING**—Indicative of terrific force of downward movement is shown in this photo of concrete garage and stairway, being swept toward bottom land some 400 feet away.

## eping Hillside; Where, When Will It Stop?



**OLD IN A HURRY**—Astorian Oscar Abrahamson had his home almost completed when earth flow shoved it over bank from Irving avenue. Only pile of boards and patch of grass remain.



**DETOUR**—Broken into thousands of pieces, this section of Irving avenue pavement has been carried more than 200 feet since January by slipping of Coxcomb hillside in Astoria.

**MRS. FRANCIS ROBINSON**, whose home is in the most perilous position on the fringe, last week stood on her porch overlooking the terrible scene to the west and the new gashes in her own property.

"It's a strange feeling," she said. "Just standing here, wondering when—and if—your house might tumble down the hill."

Damage of the earth flow, which began in January on the heels of almost unprecedented rain and snowfall, already is being measured in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. But the loss of a home can't be calculated in dollars and cents.

This is an eerie, evil scene. In some ways it is more awful, despite the limited area involved, than the war havoc caused by bombs.

\* \* \*

A PATCH OF lonely green lawn sits whimsically in a sea of red hillside mud. A stretch of sidewalk leading to nowhere tilts fantastically toward the sky.

Halfway down the hill is a section of pavement, Irving avenue it is, shattered but still recognizable. It follows an absurd up and down course, about 250 feet out of place.

At one side, perched like a se-

MEANWHILE, the currently creeping mountain, already charged with the murder of 23 home sites, still is slipping irresistibly toward the Columbia river at a rate of about nine feet every day— $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches every hour.

Where this hill that is beside itself will stop not even the harried city officials or state experts will hazard a guess.

Already the fringe areas are seriously threatened. Great cracks, some almost two feet wide, have appeared in nearby backyards. A narrow pavement break has ominously slit Irving avenue almost a block.

Anxious, fearful residents to the east of the slide, some of whom already have lost as much as 12 feet of the land behind their homes, keep an almost constant vigil on their property. Each new break in the soil is eyed apprehensively.

\* \* \*

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# Irving Slide Surges Forward; Workmen Prepare to Move Houses

The Irving avenue slide surged another six feet downhill over the weekend, as Lebeck and Sons, Portland housemoving company, prepared to move out at least six and possibly more of the houses in the slide area.

The latest movement brought the total since the slide began in late January to about 30 feet, the city engineering department reported.

## Rips Sewer

The weekend surge occurred mostly between Sunday morning and Monday morning. It not only further bent and twisted the 10

houses in the slide area, but ripped apart a city sewer on 22nd street on the east edge of the slide area.

Lebeck and Sons had two truck-loads of moving equipment at the slide this morning and the company's workmen were already getting started with preparations to move the Charles Ordway residence, at the west end of the slide.

The company had still to complete arrangements for bond and insurance against damage to city streets, the Irving avenue bridge and other public property before actual moving the houses can get under way.

Also, some of the home owners have yet to pick locations where they want their homes to be put.

The Red Cross chapter has made arrangements with the Lebeck moving company to help finance cost of moving the dwellings.

The company is planning to put cribbing under the houses, move them to the street, and then start them westward across the bridge.

The most difficult job will be getting the houses on the south side of Irving avenue down on the street. There is a bank about 10 feet high and the houses must be lowered down this bank to the street.



**MOVING DAY**—It was moving day for houses twisted off their foundations by the Irving avenue slide. Bulldozer operators are shown making a path for the Chuck Ordway home, first to be moved down to the street level. In top photo the Skip Nelson house is shown after it collapsed, bringing the roof down to street level. (A-B Photo)

# Engineers Inspect Slide Area; Drainage System Wins Support

A recommendation that the drainage system in the Irving avenue slide area be maintained and perhaps extended was made by R. J. Pope, soils engineer from the Portland district army engineer's office, after an inspection of the tract this morning.

Pope consulted with City Engineer G. T. McClean and chamber of commerce officials after the inspection, made in company with William Owens, Fort Stevens resident army engineer, and Robert Kuske, construction engineer of the Portland district office who is also a son of Mr. and Mrs. Loren Kuske, home owners in the slide tract.

Pope recommended also, and chamber officials concurred, that a survey be made of the tract to determine by what means and at what expense the slide can be stabilized permanently. He agreed that such a survey might show the cost to be prohibitive.

#### Maintains It

McClean said the city is maintaining the drainage system to the utmost, and said that any extension thereof is outside the legal powers of the city, but would have to be done by assessment district method.

Pope planned to return to Portland this afternoon to report briefly to Col. D. S. Burns, district engineer. He said he doubted if army engineers can offer any financial or engineering help.

Chamber officials planned to call Col. Burns tomorrow to see if further help can be obtained.

Members of the city commission met informally for several hours Monday night at request of city officials to hear reports on the Irving avenue slide situation and map a course of action.

#### Reports Heard

Reports were submitted by Brewer Billie, city manager; G. T. McClean, city engineer; H. M. McCallister, public works superintendent.

The commissioners agreed that the city had done all it could to combat the slide and that the drainage system in that area had been maintained in operating condition to the maximum possible extent.

#### "Not Responsible"

The commissioners agreed that the city has no responsibility for damage done by the slide to homes in the area.

McClean and McCallister told the commissioners that the restoration of Irving avenue to a condition passable for motor traffic is the city's immediate aim, and that this work will also help restore the surface drainage on the street, which has been damaged by breaking-up of the pave-

## Slide Aid Is Offered By Red Cross

Mrs. Grace G. Wise, San Francisco, disaster field representative of the national Red Cross, returned to Astoria Thursday to remain until the middle of next week to take applications from citizens in the Irving avenue slide area for Red Cross rehabilitation aid.

Mrs. Wise said the Red Cross is anxious to get any further applications that may be made, and that they will be accepted at the Clatsop county Red Cross chapter office, where she will be on duty.

Mrs. Wise said that rehabilitation grants are available from the national Red Cross disaster fund in the form of grants made through the Clatsop county chapter, without any burden upon Clatsop county chapter funds.

Such grants will be awarded only on a basis of need, Mrs. Wise said. A local advisory committee will be set up to help the national organization to determine the need.

"This slide situation has one complication," Mrs. Wise said. "People whose homes have been damaged cannot be sure what they want to plan, since they cannot be sure whether the slide is going to move some more."

City officials report there has been no further serious movement in the slide area this week, other than minor settling movements.

The drainage system in the area has been restored and city officials are hopeful there will be no further movement this winter.

(Continued Page 2)



**STOUT HOUSE GIVES UP**—These close-up views of the Lawrence Jackson home show how it is finally being crushed by the Coxcomb hill earth flow after riding safely down the slide for 300 feet. Upper photo shows lower end of house, with back porch being crushed against earth knoll. Lower photo is looking down from steep cliff toward upper end of house, showing how creeping earth mass is crushing lower corner. The earth knoll that stopped it is visible above the roof at right. (A-B Photo)

## Slide-Riding Home Giving Up the Fight

Lawrence Jackson's stout Irving avenue home, after surviving a jolting ride of 300 feet down the steep face of the Coxcomb hill mud glacier, is slowly giving up the fight against the destroying force of the creeping mud.

Astorian - Budget representatives who visited the home yesterday found it had backed into a knoll of earth and mud about 150 feet above the foot of the slide, and is gradually being squeezed by its own weight plus the burden of the advancing clay precipice behind it.

### Blocks Channel

The house backed down the hill in a channel along the earth flow. It blocked the channel through which water was running, and finally eddied off into a pocket, below a cliff and against the knoll below it.

There it is in a sort of earth nutcracker from which it can't escape.

Jackson, who has been making daily visits, said he believes now the house cannot be saved intact, but must be broken up where it is and salvaged.

### Remarkable Fight

But the house made a remarkable fight before giving up. When it came to rest it was tilted some 50 degrees from the vertical and had travelled down a precipice without serious harm.

Jackson said the house was strongly built, about 35 years ago by a contractor named Butterfield.

Even now the upstairs portion of the house seems undamaged, but the lower floor is in bad condition. The walls are cracked, the back end is being crushed in, one front corner is bent, windows have at last broken, and the front room floor is bulging up.

### Water in the Kitchen

The corner of the kitchen that noses into the knoll is filled with muddy water, rising up into the kitchen sink.

Around the house considerable shrubbery that rode down the glacier with it is still growing, upright and natural, hundreds of feet below the former site. Apparently earth, roots and all rode right down the precipice without serious change in relative position.

Jackson hopes yet to salvage a hedge, holly tree, apple tree, hawthorne, lilac bush, cypress and other smaller shrubbery.

## More Troubles Hound Jackson

More troubles came to L. D. Jackson, whose home is finally breaking up after riding the crest of the Irving avenue slide, early Saturday morning when an electric motor on his refrigeration equipment at the Jackson Produce company, 71 Ninth, caught fire.

City firemen were called at 12:57 a. m. Saturday when smoke was discovered coming from the building. Firemen said the motor was destroyed but no other damage from smoke was reported.

# Engineers Visit Slide On Irving

(Continued From Page 1)

ment and sidewalks.

Commission members expressed deep sympathy for the citizens whose homes have been destroyed or badly damaged.

## Long Sliding

The commissioners were informed by city officials that the area in question has been subject to slides for many years.

They heard a detailed recitation of steps that have been taken through the years to maintain the drainage system in the area. Parts of the underground pipes that constitute that drainage system have been replaced at different times by open ditches, as result of bending and breaking of the pipes in previous slides, city officials reported.

The drainage system was originally built by assessment of the property owners benefitted, city officials said.

Its maintenance has been conducted by the city. The commissioners took the view, however, that when whole or partial replacement of the drainage system becomes necessary, that is the property owners' responsibility.

## Red Cross to Aid

Residents of the slide stricken area who were left in financial need as a result of damage suffered by their homes were asked today by Red Cross officials to notify the Clatsop county chapter office of their needs.

Mrs. Grace G. Wise, disaster field representative from the Pacific area, San Francisco, was in Astoria Monday to survey damage from the slide and determine what the Red Cross can do to help the families stricken by the slide.

Don Jossy, county disaster committee chairman for the Red Cross, accompanied Mrs. Wise on a tour of the area.

The Irving avenue slide has been recognized by the National Red Cross headquarters as a disaster and the Red Cross will definitely operate in Astoria on a need basis, Mrs. Wise said.

"The Red Cross does not replace loss but rather is interested in giving assistance to those hurt by the disaster on a basis of need," Mrs. Wise emphasized.

Both Mrs. Wise and Jossy urged all families needing assistance to contact Mrs. Louise McKenzie, local secretary for the Clatsop county chapter and leave three names.

## Leaves Area

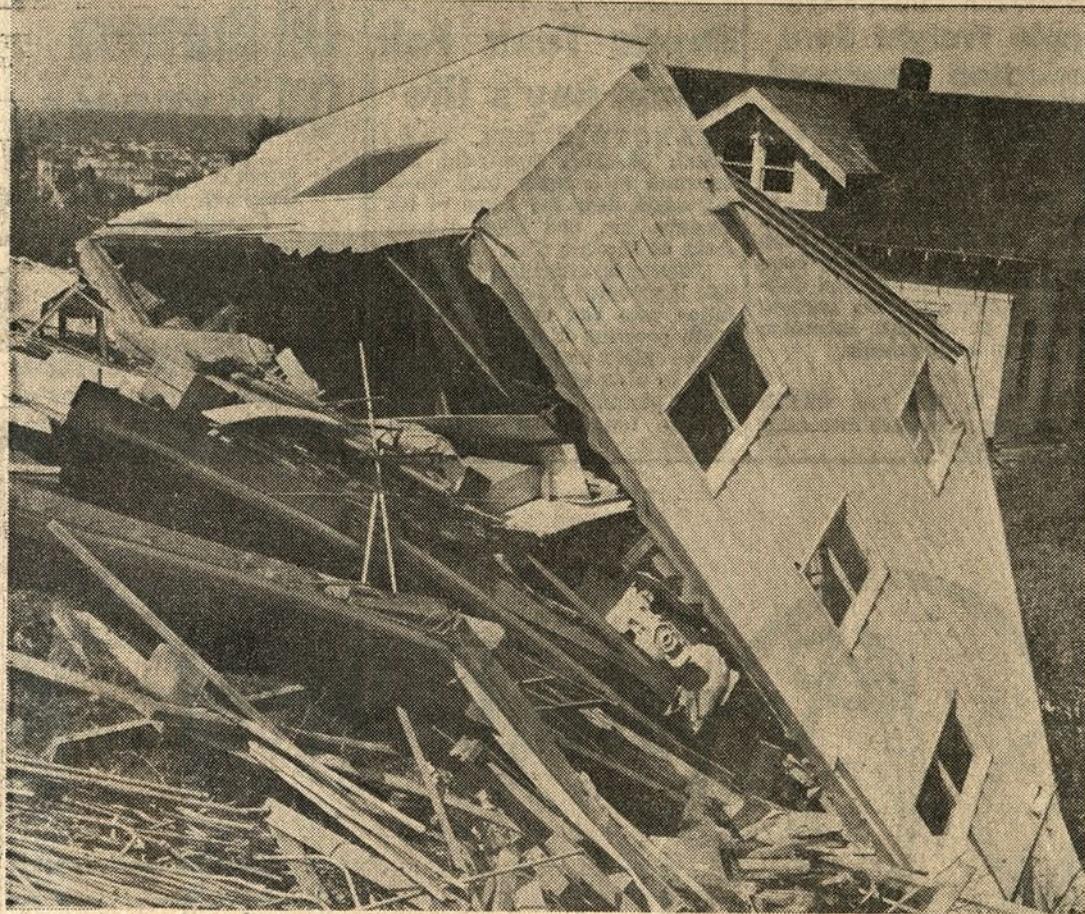
Mrs. Wise left Astoria Monday night for Aberdeen where she was called on another case but will return Friday to check on what is needed in Astoria.

If sufficient need is shown by residents of the area by Friday, she will stay in Astoria to conduct a survey of what the Red Cross can do and direct aid operations but if no residents of the area have applied for aid upon her return from Aberdeen, Mrs. Wise will return to San Francisco for another assignment, the officials said.

The Red Cross assistance given

in disaster service is an outright gift and the organization never makes loans in a disaster, Mrs. Wise emphasized as she urged those needing assistance to apply for the aid not later than Thursday at the local office.

Although they urged the early application for aid, the officials said the disaster committee will continue to function in this area as long as the trouble exists to take care of any need that may arise from additional damage that may show up because of the present sliding condition.



ASTORIA WRECKAGE—The Oscar Abrahamson home on Irving avenue in Astoria, one of several affected by landslides, moved an additional four feet Wednesday and tipped completely over.

## Slipping Ground Tumbles Astoria House Over Cliff

ASTORIA, March 30.—There is one less house to move from the sliding ground on Irving avenue after a movement of four feet Wednesday toppled the Oscar Abrahamson home over the cliffside, smashing the year-old home to kindling.

No person was injured after the house fell. However, Mrs. Lawrence Jackson, whose home was directly below the Abrahamson house, narrowly escaped the tumbling house while digging up flower bulbs in her yard.

The five-room house came to rest in her yard. Several plate glass windows survived, but the house is now worthless, except for salvage.

Other homes in the area, which had been held up on jacks, survived the latest earth movement.

Meanwhile, the first house to be moved out by Lebeck & Son of Portland was nearly on solid ground after being skidded off a 15-foot bank to the street level.

The company, which is being paid by the Red Cross, expects to move six other houses.

City officials Wednesday were awaiting the posting of a \$40,000 bond by the moving company to insure against damage to the new Irving avenue bridge, over which the houses are to be wheeled on "dollies."

### Highway Guard Asked

EUGENE, March 30.—The River road traffic safety committee, meeting here this week in an effort to eliminate traffic hazards in the area, asked for a Lane county sheriff's patrol in the River road and Santa Clara areas during the next 30 days. The meeting was stimulated by the recent death of two small children along a road in the River road area.

## ASTORIANS GET CREEPY FEELING

# Coxcomb Hill Slide Thought Just Forerunner

(Also See Story on Pg. 1, Sec. A)

By BOB MORSE  
Journal Staff Writer

ASTORIA, April 15.—Will this historic seaport town become America's first creeping city?

In the wake of the Coxcomb hill disaster have come dire predictions of more—and worse—landslides for Astoria. But there is one loophole. It may be as long as 500 years before the predictions come to pass.

It is hardly comforting news to a population already fully aware that "part of our city is missing."

Lewis Scott, state highway department geologist sent in by Governor Douglas McKay to study the destructive earth flow on Coxcomb hill, has said a district containing about half the city's homes is a potential slide area.

\* \* \*

AND, HE SAYS, there is a possible slide forming above the city's port docks which could do much more damage than the current flow—once it gets started.

More than two dozen homes and apartment houses would be threatened if the potential commercial district earth flow should move under buildings having three times the value of property now being torn up by the Irving avenue movement.

His only question is, "When will it start?" Scott is drawing up a master plan for city officials which will recommend tapping the hill of water to delay the slide.

\* \* \*



ON THE BRINK — State official checks east edge of earth flow. Shown is Lewis Scott, state geologist.

date little old lady on a knoll of grass, is a lattice arbor, completely undamaged, despite the fact that the home it accompanied

is now but a pile of twisted boards.

And there are weird noises. The Lawrence Jackson home now and then emits an eerie, creaking whine as it almost imperceptibly inches down the hillside. Once a comfortable house on Irving avenue, it is riding the crest of the creeping mountain and now could claim a Grant avenue address.

The Jackson home still is intact, and it is hoped it can be salvaged should it reach the bottom of the hill safely.

\* \* \*

ONCE IN A WHILE the silence of the desolate scene is broken by the snapping of a branch or small tree as the pressure of the lava-like earth becomes too great.

Geologist Scott said the disaster of Coxcomb hill is an earth flow, not a slide.

The top of the ground simply has slipped down hill. Thus, the Jackson home, for example, rides the crest and has not been buried by an avalanche as it would be by a slide. About 30 to 35 feet from the surface is a bed of slick clay limestone, which Scott said is acting as a greased roller on which the top earth is playing chute-the-chutes.

\* \* \*

HE BLAMES excessive water, from snow and rain, for the flow. And to local critics who believe City Engineer G. T. McClean and his staff failed to provide adequate drainage, Scott answers:

"As far as I can determine, the city engineers have done everything humanly possible to keep surface water off the area—both prior to and after the flow began."

The creeping area is only about 1000 feet long and a little more than 300 feet wide. This ravine was more susceptible to the water-propelled movement because it has a slide history, Scott said.

One landslide was recorded about the turn of the century. Another is believed to have occurred some years later. The uppermost point of the current

earth flow lies only a short distance below the top of that original slide.

\* \* \*

WHERE WILL Coxcomb hill land? Scott and his associates, Jim Schaub, soils engineer, and Ray Webber, assistant construction engineer for the highway department, believe the flow eventually will build its own "toe" as it piles up at the bottom of the hill.

Scott said it virtually would be impossible to halt the flow now without enormous cost, which has been estimated as high as \$1½ million. Of more immediate concern is the fate of other nearby homes. The breaks in the earth there, Scott believes, do not mean that the flow itself is widening. They probably are adjustments to the shifting earth nearby, he thinks.

But the situation, in his opinion, is nevertheless extremely dangerous.

**100<sup>th</sup> YEAR**  
the  
GREAT NEWSPAPER of the WEST

The Or.

VOL. XC—NO. 27,901

Entered at Portland (Oregon)  
Post Office as Second-Class Matter

Oregonian

Apr 14, 1950 PORTLAND, OREGON, FRI

## House Rides Slide Intact, Steals Astoria Show



Astoria's Coxcomb hill slide has destroyed three homes and damaged 18 others, but the Lawrence Jackson home Thursday continued its tilted but intact way toward foot of mov-

ing hillside and possible safety. House moved on even keel for a time but now has tilted. It has moved about 200 feet, has 150 to go. Slide moves eight to ten feet a day.

## Slide Begins Slowing Down; Dry Weather Is Given Credit

The Coxcomb hill mud slide appears to be slowing down at last, the city engineering department announced today.

A measurement of the earth flow this morning showed only 8 feet of slippage since Monday, a five day period. Previously the earth had been flowing 8 to 10 feet daily.

Dry weather that prevailed all week was given credit for slowing the disastrous clay glacier.

There was still no estimate as to when the slide will stop—it still must build itself up a stable toe at the hill's foot, in the opinion of both City Engineer G. T. McClean and Geologist Lewis Scott of the state highway department who investigated it last week.

The crack around the "tension block" on Irving between 22nd and 23rd widened a little this morning, but a broken water main at 23rd and Irving may have been a factor in this. The main was repaired this morning. It broke yesterday.

Meanwhile the Lebeck moving company and Eyers Brothers were ready to start moving rescued houses to new locations.

A rush call was dispatched by the local Red Cross advisory committee to the Portland office of Lloyds insurance agency, asking that an insurance policy of \$40,000 on the Irving avenue bridge at 18th be rushed here. City officials want to look over the policy before giving the green light to move rescued houses across the bridge.

### Arrival Awaited

If the policy arrives Saturday morning—and Lloyds officials promised to mail it at once—the house moving will start Saturday. Otherwise it will wait until Monday.

The house movers were still pulling the Bert Mattson and John Classen houses from the 22nd street "tension block" to safety on Irving avenue today. They are the 17th and 18th houses to be saved from the slide.

### Red Cross Meets

The Red Cross advisory committee met today to give final approval to Red Cross financial help to four families whose houses are being moved.

Miss Evelyn Maley, San Francisco Red Cross disaster worker, reported the families were well satisfied with the assistance the Red Cross is giving them.

In each case the financial aid includes cost of moving, erecting the houses on new foundations, in some cases preparation of basements and in some cases repair of the houses after being placed on the new foundations. In some cases, long-term bank loans are being made available to families the committee feels can finance their own repair work at least in part.

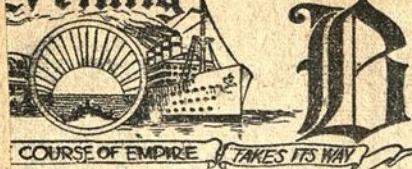
The borrowed horizontal boring rig obtained by the city this week from the state highway department poked a third hole into the toe of a threatening slide area on West Bond street this morning. It was dry at 30 feet depth, city engineers said.

One of two holes bored yesterday was tiled and was producing a flow of drainage water today.

Dr. Harvey Rones, who lives just west of the slide on Irving, reported this morning that by daily sights on the Rorabaugh-Abrahamson garage in the midst of the earth flow that there had been no movement for two days.

City engineers said they believed about six feet of the eight-foot movement of the past five days occurred Monday and Tuesday and that there has been little movement since then.

Evening



# Budget

United Press World News

NEA Photos and Features

Sunday, April 3, 1950

Price Five Cents

# Irving Slips 19 Feet; Three Families Driven From Homes Below Hill

## Red Cross, Chamber to Study Aid to Slide Area Residents

The Astoria chamber of commerce and the national Red Cross will investigate the Irving avenue slide situation and see if they can do anything to help the citizens who are losing their homes in the sliding earth there.

Another Irving avenue family was hastily moving from its home today, making the eighth to abandon its dwelling there. The Loren Kuske home at 21st and Irving began to show signs of approaching collapse.

An appeal by Guy Rea, local banker, brought the chamber of commerce action Friday. At Rea's suggestion that a committee be appointed, President C. E. Short named the chamber housing committee to investigate.

Ragnar Johnson, committee chairman, said the committee will be appointed and hold a meeting early next week.

Rea suggested that the chamber committee not attempt to fix blame for the slide, but simply try to see what the community can do to help the slide victims.

Mrs. Louise McKenzie, Clatsop county Red Cross secretary, said the national Red Cross is sending an investigator to see what that organization can do and that she will arrive here Monday by plane and may seek a conference with the chamber committee.

Mrs. McKenzie said the national Red Cross considers any misfortune on such a scale to five families or more constitutes a disaster.

She said that any assistance from the national Red Cross would probably take the form of help in rehabilitation.

Meanwhile the week-old slide continued today to inch slowly down the hill, increasing the damage to the 10 houses in the area.

The seven families already driven from their homes by the slide include those of D. R. Rush, Anders Gimre, Thomas Nelson, D. R. Wayne, Oscar Abrahamsen, Ralph Abrahamsen and Lawrence "Bud" Hansen, not Albert Hansen, as was stated erroneously Friday.

Irving avenue's accelerating slide slipped 19 feet more over the weekend and drove three families from their homes at the corner of 21st and Grand, at the foot of the sliding hill.

City engineers, alarmed at the increasing pace of the slide, warned the Robert McIntyre, Peter Anderson and Mrs. Lucy Lyman families Sunday that their homes were in danger.

### Plans Changed

But the slide moved so much that plans for moving the Larson home were changed. Instead of being dragged across the slide area to 21st and Irving on the west side of the slide, it will be lowered to the east side of the slide at 22nd and Irving.

The Larson home is the next to be moved out. After that the Loren Kuske home at the west edge of the slide will be pulled out into the street, and lastly the smaller Ralph Abrahamsen and E. E. Rorabaugh dwellings will be moved—if the slide doesn't move too fast.

### One House Abandoned

The Laurence Jackson home, in the middle of the sliding block and on the north side of Irving, was carried several feet downhill during the weekend movement and by this morning was tilting at an alarming angle. All hopes of saving it have been abandoned.

City engineers were plainly concerned about the acceleration of the slide.

They reported the earth cracking apart down the hill at the foot of the slide, and just above the houses at 21st and Grand.

### Another Slide

The Red Cross, which is financing the rescue of houses from the slide, was still negotiating with the city regarding insurance or a bond to cover possible damage to streets and the Irving avenue bridge.

City officials reported that another slide on the north slope of the hill has damaged several homes, although to a far less extent than the Irving avenue movement.

This slide is around 20th street, in the same spot where houses were damaged and a street broken several winters ago.

It has cracked concrete walls and disturbed houses again this winter.

The McIntyres moved their household goods out as well as themselves.

The McIntyre home at 946 Grand is right at the foot of the sliding hill.

### Others Leave Homes

A thin stream of muddy water was pouring across the McIntyre yard Monday, carrying dirt and branches from the slide. The ground under the house had not moved, however.

The Andersons, living just north of McIntyre, and Mrs. Lyman, living a short distance west, both left their homes Sunday night. They had not moved any household goods, however.

Frank Sorenson, who lives at 270-21st, just east of Anderson and also at the foot of the slide, said he stayed home all night Sunday night but was kept awake by the rattling of rocks and material falling from the slipping hill above.

### Moves 19 Feet

"I didn't get much sleep all night," Sorenson said.

The city engineering department reported the slide as measured at Irving avenue moved 19 feet over the weekend.

At one time Sunday it moved nearly 10 feet in a few minutes.

"You could almost see it move," said Orrin Byers, local contractor who is working on the job of moving houses from the slide.

The movement was so fast that workmen preparing the B. T. Larson home at 22nd and Irving for moving left the house for a time. They later returned and continued the preparations.



# Geologist Inspects Slide Area; Drainage Taxed by Heavy Rains

Lewis Scott, state highway department geologist, arrived in Astoria late Tuesday and was out inspecting the Irving avenue slide this morning.

Scott said so far he is just "circling" the area in a preliminary inspection and that he cannot yet make any statement regarding his findings. He said he probably will be here at least the rest of the week.

Scott was called in at request of the Astoria city council to give whatever advice he can after studying the geological nature of the slide.

## Left In Hurry

Scott said he was summoned from a seismographic job on the Columbia highway in the Columbia gorge by a state patrolman Tuesday and had about 10 minutes to get ready and take off for Astoria.

The Irving slide continued its march, travelling 8.3 feet in 24 hours up to mid-morning Wednesday. This was about a foot less than it moved in the preceding 24 hours.

The heavy downpour of rain Tuesday, totalling 1.65 inches up to 6 p. m. Tuesday, brought a crisis on the temporary fire hose drainage system employed by the city on 22nd street, but the crisis was weathered safely.

The city had installed a pumper to pump water out of the manhole at 23rd and Irving into fire hoses that carried it down the hill, past the shattered portion of the 22nd street sewer.

The heavy rain overtaxed the pumper's capacity, backing water up in the sewer and threatening to push out the plug in the broken portion of the sewer, which might have sent a cascade of water down the slope. Water backed up into the basement of Dr. Lindstrom's home.

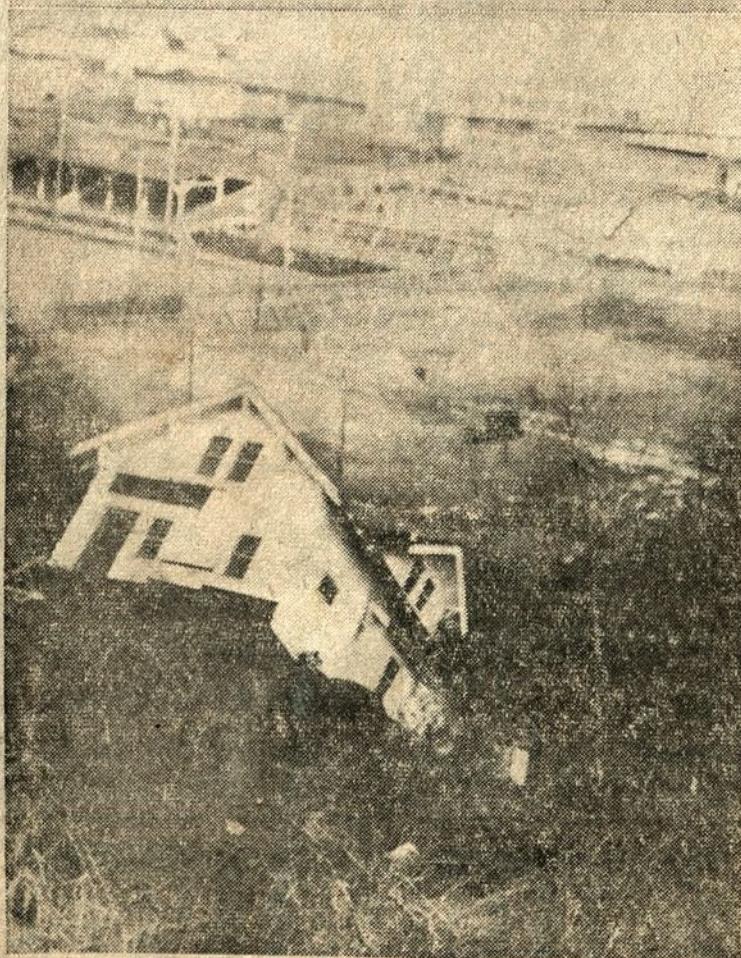
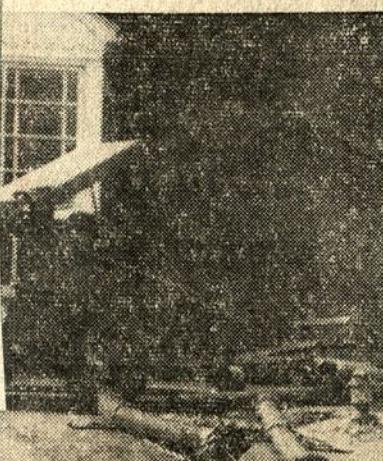
The navy rushed an additional pumper and more fire hose, which took care of the excess water. By morning the situation was normal again.

## Cossart House Moved

Lebeck company workmen employed by the Red Cross were moving the M. T. Cossart home from the foot of the slide this morning. They had the home of Mrs. Margaret Parker propped up on cribbing, all ready to move.

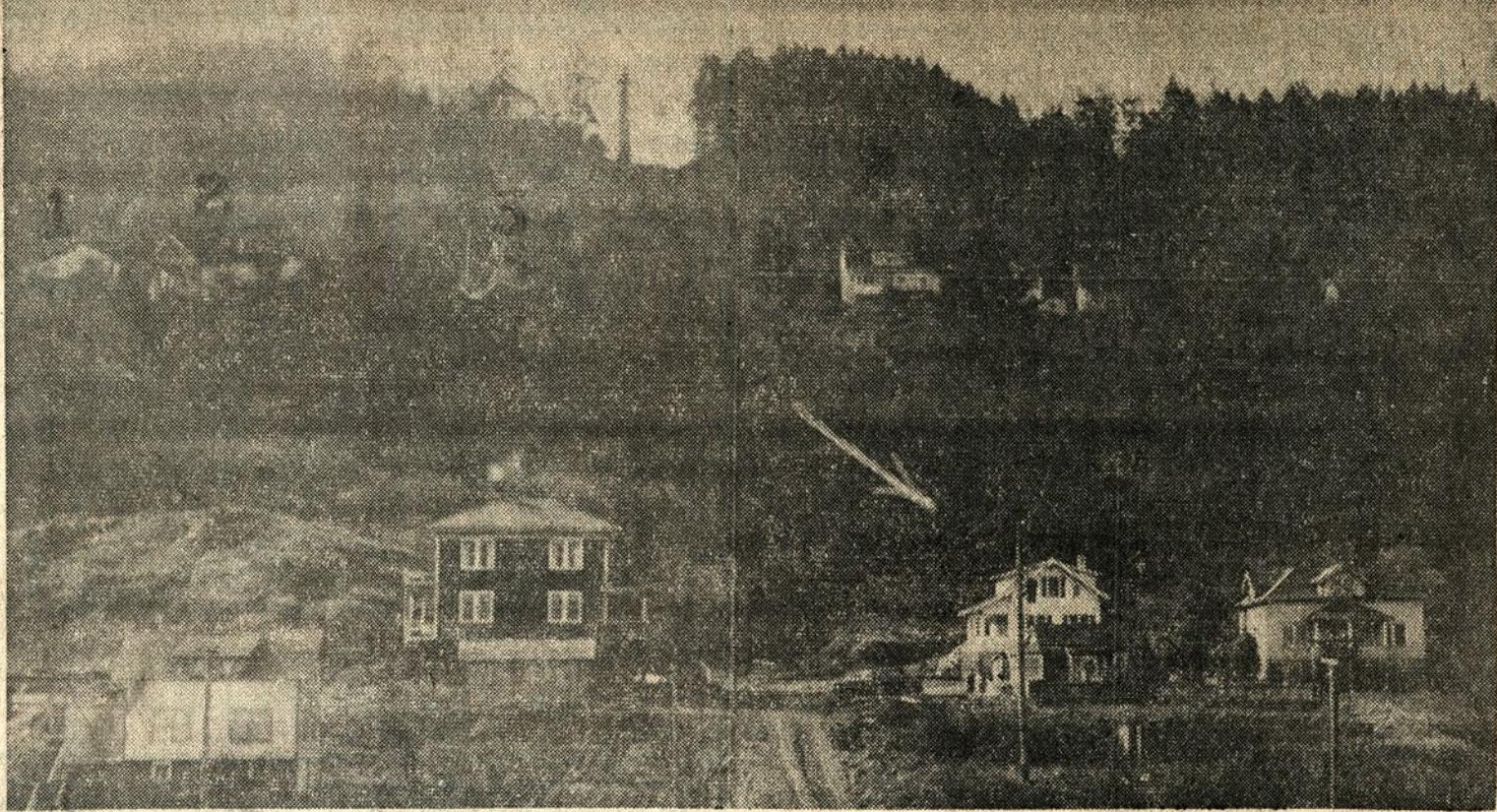
When these houses are out of danger, the Lebeck company will have 13 houses in all rescued from the slide.

The Oscar Olson home near the slide's foot was still occupied today, and City Engineer G. T. McClean said it was not yet necessary to advise its evacuation and removal to safer ground.

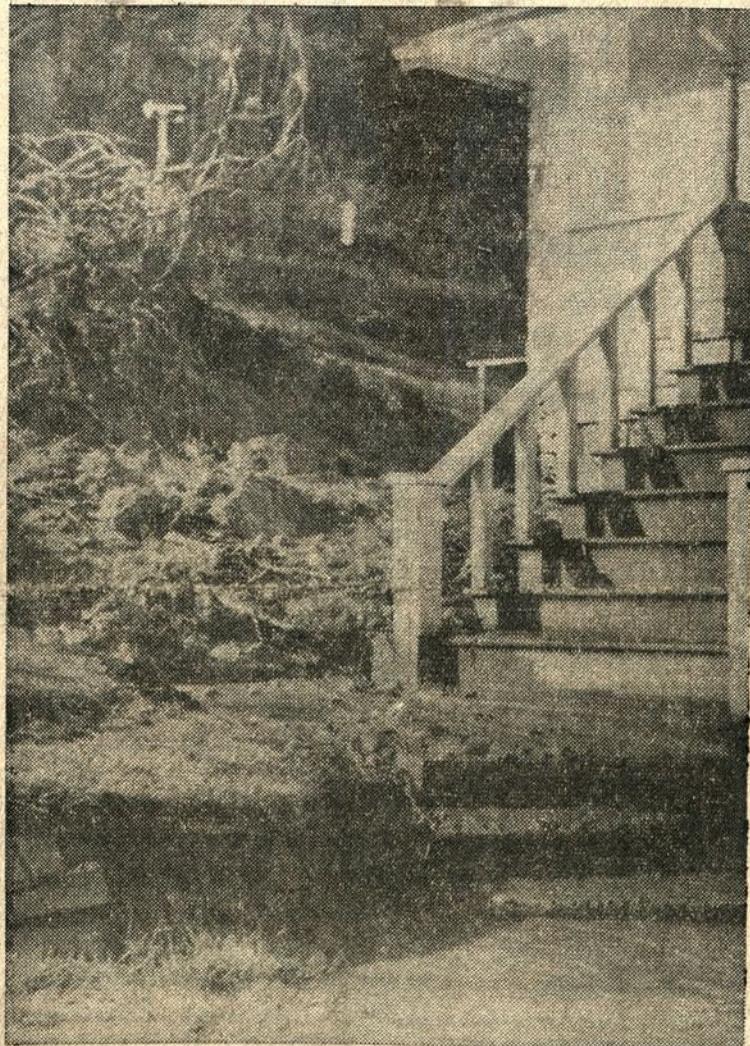


**RAIN BRINGS SLIDE CRISIS**—The city pumbers shown in top picture, bringing drainage water out of a manhole at 23rd and Irving and sending it down the hill in fire hoses, were almost swamped by the heavy rain Tuesday night. An emergency pumper from Tongue Point relieved the situation. At lower left the Lawrence Jackson house continues its undamaged ride downhill, but has now nosed into a bank of dirt and clump of trees which may slow it. At lower right, Lewis Scott, state highway department geologist, looks over the slide. (A-B photos)





**SLIDE THREATENS NEW HOMES**—This general view of the Irving avenue slide shows homes at the foot of the slide now threatened by the moving earth. The arrow shows direction of slide movement. White house to which it points is Robert McIntyre home, which has been vacated and emptied of furnishings. To right of McIntyre home is that of Mrs. Lucy Lyman and the dark house in front of McIntyre's home is that of Peter Anderson. Both were vacated Sunday. Large house to left of arrow is that of Frank Sorenson, which is still occupied. Numbered houses on Irving avenue are: (1) B. T. Larson, (2) Lawrence Jackson, (3) Skip Nelson, (4) Loren Kuske. (A-B Photo)



**SLIDE'S DREGS HIT HOUSE**—Here is the front yard of the Robert McIntyre home, showing dirt and debris washed down the hill from the Irving avenue slide. Since this picture was taken at 9 this morning, considerably more dirt has piled up against the house. (A-B Photo)

## Irving Avenue Slides Again; More Families Leave Homes

Irving avenue resumed its downward movement over the weekend, driving more families from their homes.

The hillside between 20th and 21st streets started slipping again Saturday night after two days of hard rain.

By this morning it had slipped downward 4 to 5 feet more, twisting and buckling the street and sidewalks and doing additional damage to 10 homes that had already been bent and twisted by the sliding that occurred several weeks ago.

The area had been fairly stationary since the original slide, following a thaw after freezing conditions in January.

Only two dwellings in the block between 20th and 21st were still being occupied today.

The Charles Ordway family moved out Sunday night after the concrete foundation was virtually wrecked and the house twisted three feet away from the brick chimney, part of which fell.

Lawrence Hansen, whose home is in the middle of the block, had moved back in after the slide stopped last month. He said today he is moving out again.

Irving avenue this morning presented a picture of destruction. The street itself was torn and twisted, with big cracks in the pavement. Sidewalks had been broken into blocks of concrete that lay at strange angles.

Lawns were filled with big cracks in the earth, with hummocks and ditches.

Twisted houses stood at angles of several degrees out of plumb. Several houses, abandoned a month ago, were partly demolished.

One dwelling, located at the corner of 20th and Irving and owned by Mrs. C. A. Nyquist, appeared about to fall from its broken concrete foundation and topple over the hill. The house next door had dropped vertically about 1 foot. Its once-level lawn was sloping steeply from the street.

The slide of Saturday and Sunday occurred despite efforts of the city government to stabilize the area by repairing the damage done to the drainage system of the area by the slide several weeks ago.

The Red Cross office here announced Sunday night it would expedite rehabilitation aid to families driven from their homes by the slide.





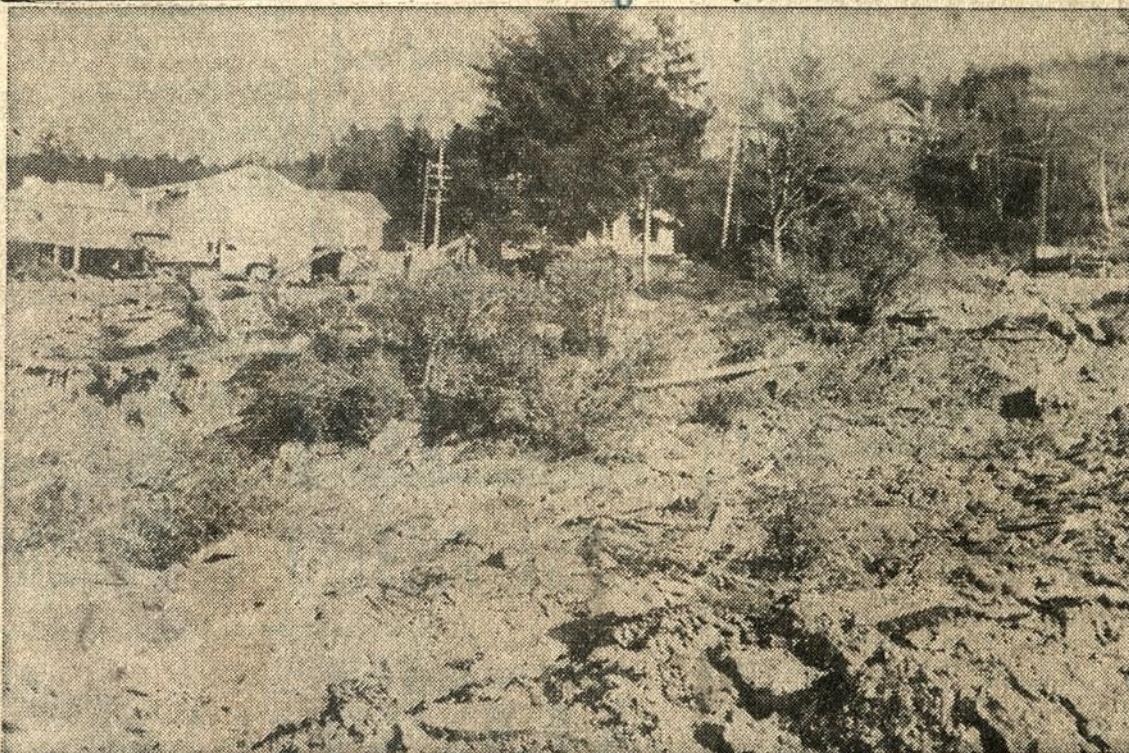
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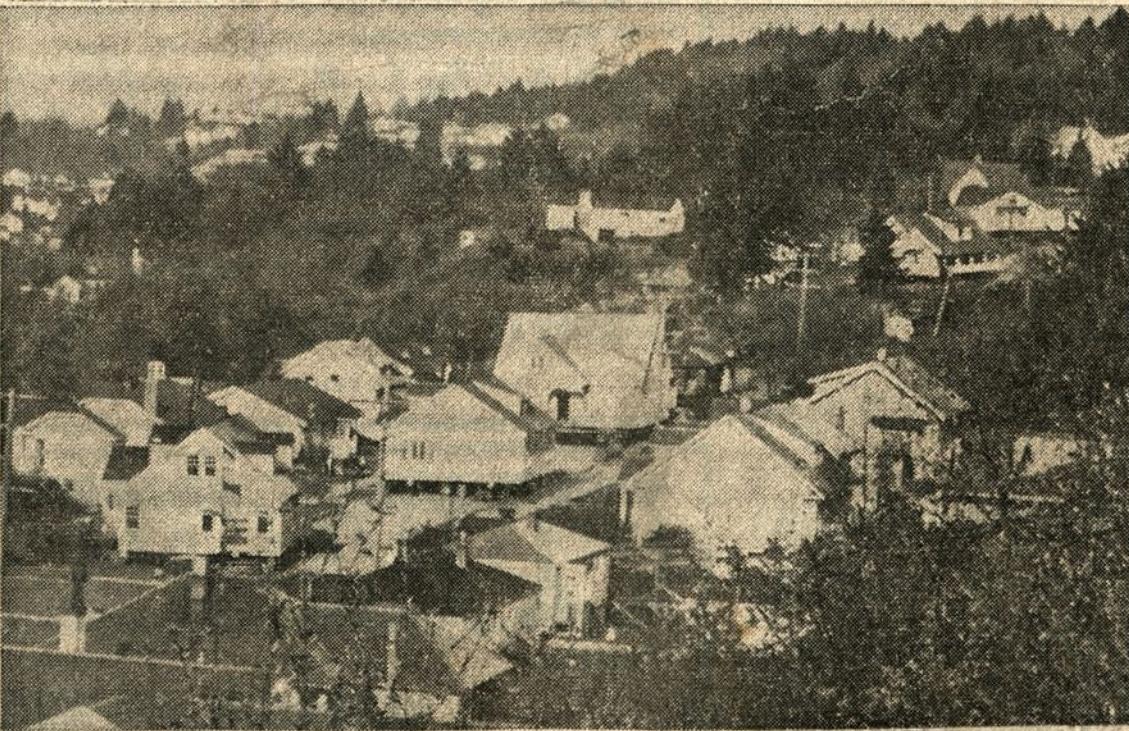
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Fifty-seventh year Evening Budget  
Seventy-sixth year Morning Astorian

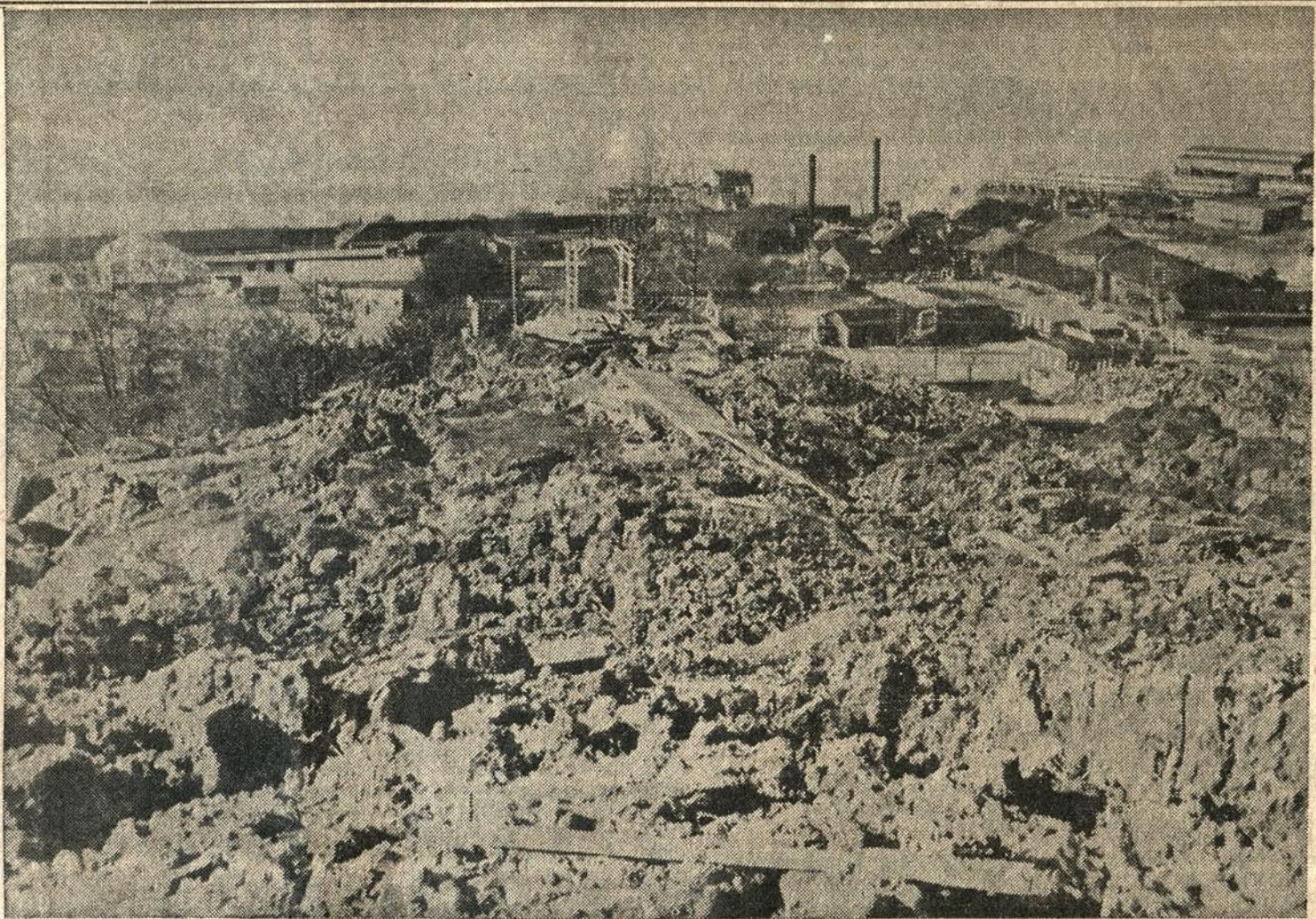
*Astorian Budget Apr. 20 1950*



**WHERE STREET ONCE STOOD**—The upper view here shows the area that once was Irving avenue, lined with lawns and homes. It is now a creeping glacier of clay. At lower left can be seen some of the broken up bits of sidewalk that once paralleled the street at upper right of picture. At upper left are the Bert Mattson and John Classen homes, about to be pulled from slide danger. Lower photo shows Irving avenue, with homes lined up on it ready to be moved away. (A-B Photos)







**SLIDE "STRONG POINT"**—The trellis shown here formerly was part of the back yard of the Lawrence Jackson home on Irving avenue. It and the point of earth on which it stands have remained immovable in the path of the Coxcomb hill mud flow. The house, which formerly stood in the foreground of the area shown here, is far down hill to the right and behind the trellis. (A-B Photo)



THE AMERICAN RED CROSS MOVED AND RESTORED 239 HOMES FROM THIS AREA DURING THE 1951 LANDSLIDE DISASTER ON IRVING STREET IN ASTORIA. COST APPROXIMATELY \$110,000.



# Irving Slide Increases Pace Four More Houses Threatened

The Irving avenue slide increased its pace over the weekend, travelling 29.2 feet in three days and spreading somewhat to the eastward.

It also threatened four more houses on Franklin near 21st.

City officials advised owners of three houses that they were in danger. Red Cross officials said plans were being formed to move these houses.

## Lyman House Moved

The houses are those of Mrs. Margaret Parker, M. T. Cossart and Steve Wallulis, a fourth, owned by Oscar Olsen, may also be in danger. All but the Olsen home have been evacuated—and Olson reported the noise of cracking trees on the advancing toe of the slide kept him awake most of the night and he has been discussing with Red Cross officials a possible move of his house.

The Lebeck moving company bulldozed a road Sunday to the home of Mrs. Lucy Lyman at 20th and Franklin and moved it to safety on the sand flats a block northward.

The Lebeck movers were working on the big Frank Sorenson home on 21st street near Grand today and hoped to have it in safety by nightfall.

## Cliff Drops

Saturday the Ralph Abrahamson home, last of those on Irving avenue to be rescued, was pulled to safety on the solid street west of the slide.

Over the weekend, part of the cliff east of 22nd and north of Irving, behind the Francis Robinson home at the street corner, slipped from 6 to 10 feet, leaving a sharp break about 100 feet long.

Otherwise there was no further extension of the earth movement eastward, but city officials were alarmed over a possible further spread.

## Insurance Word Awaited

Red Cross officials awaited word today from the London office of the big Lloyds insurance company whether it would insure the Irving avenue bridge against damage from movement of the rescued houses across it.

Richard Gordon, Red Cross disaster director from San Francisco, said Monday that costs of the rescue project had not been figured yet, but other Red Cross officials guessed it would run to \$4000 a house.

So far nine houses have been moved out of the slide area, a tenth was being moved today, and four others may still be moved.

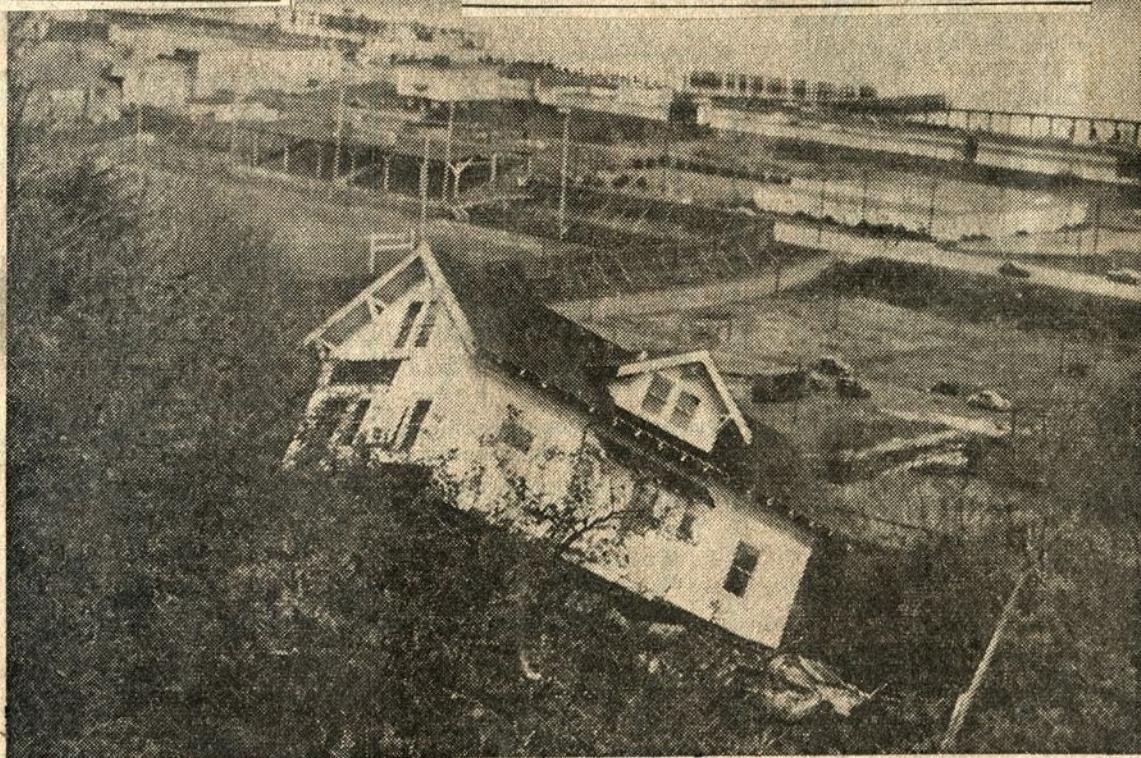
## Might Save Jackson

The city was pumping water out of its 22nd street sewer at the Irving avenue manhole today and sending it down the hill through fire hoses, replacing the rent and twisted sewer line below Irving.

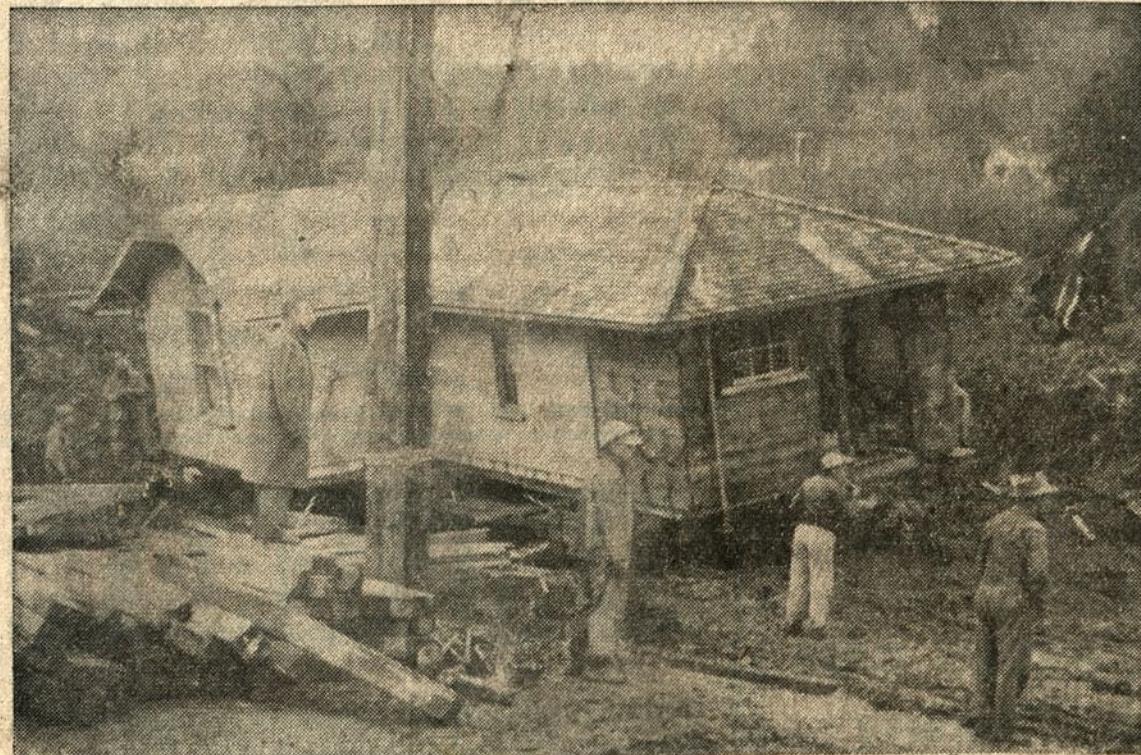
C. W. Sutton, foreman for the Lebeck moving company, expressed a belief Sunday that the Lawrence Jackson home, previously abandoned as hopelessly lost, may yet be saved.

The Jackson home has slipped about 150 feet down the slope from its original location.

Astoria, Oregon, Monday, April 10, 1950



**RIDING HIGH**—The Lawrence Jackson home, shown here, is riding down the hill from Irving avenue apparently little damaged so far. If it continues to ride safely down the slide, it may still be salvaged. At far right of picture can be seen the home of Mrs. Lucy Lyman, which was pulled to safety on the sand flats Sunday from its location at the foot of the moving hillside. (A-B Photo)



**SAFE FROM SLIDE**—The Ralph Abrahamson home, last to be pulled from the Irving avenue portion of Astoria's big slide, is shown here being snaked out late Saturday by Lebeck moving company. A Lebeck truck and a Byers Brothers tractor, out of sight to the right, provided the motive power. (A-B Photo)



The Red Cross Drive

Still Needs Support



Fifty-seventh year Evening Budget  
Seventy-sixth year Morning Astorian

## House Tipping

... 60

# Irving Slide Moves 4 Feet Topples House Off Hillside

The Irving avenue slide toppled one house over the cliffside Tuesday afternoon and slipped another 4 feet down-hill Tuesday night.

The Oscar Abrahamson home, a nearly-completed dwelling that Lebeck and Son moving concern had planned to try to save, plunged from its brown foundations about 50 feet down the cliff late Tuesday afternoon.

Mrs. Lawrence Jackson, whose home is below and slightly west of the Abrahamson dwelling, was in her yard digging up bulbs and feared for a moment that the house might fall on her.

### Stops in Yard

The toppling house came to rest partly in the Jackson yard, resting on its back and bottom.

It was badly shattered and was beyond rescue except for salvage of lumber and fittings. Several of the windows survived the crash intact.

Lebeck and Son, Portland housemovers, continued today to prepare to lower the Charles Ordway home, on the west side of the slide, down a 12 foot bank to the street preparatory to moving it away.

### Six to Move

Six other houses are expected to be moved if possible.

The city was negotiating with owners to provide new lots. The new locations are mostly between Lexington and Niagara avenue and west of 7th street. One is on Harrison.

All are within half a mile of the slide area.

City officials said today they are still awaiting a \$40,000 bond from Lebeck and Sons before permitting use of street and the Irving avenue bridge to move the houses.

City officials were hopeful that newly-arrived dry weather will soon stabilize the slide and permit rebuilding of the broken street to start.

So far the slide has done no damage to dwellings at the foot of the hill, on Grand avenue below the slide.



**HOUSE CRASHES**—The Oscar Abrahamson home toppled down the cliff under impetus of the Irving avenue slide last evening. Above at left is the house, photographed just an hour before it fell. At right, a photograph from almost the same spot after the fall. Below left, a more distant view of the house, showing how it came to rest just in front of the Lawrence Jackson home. Below right, a sample of what the slide has done to paving on 22nd street, the east edge of the slide. A-B Photos.

The Red Cross Drive  
Still Needs Support



Fifty-seventh year Evening Budget  
Seventy-sixth year Morning Astorian

## Irving Slide May Topple House

The Irving avenue slide  
cliffside Tuesday afternoon  
noon and hill Tuesday night.

\$600 in Estate  
Doolittle Leaves

Glen Doolittle, who died with his wife, left the corner called a home in what is believed to have been his estate of personal property. His wife and his wife's estate of \$600 will be divided among the heirs. Glen Doolittle, who died with his wife, left the corner called a home in what is believed to have been his estate of personal property. His wife and his wife's estate of \$600 will be divided among the heirs.

## House Tipping

... 60 Minutes Later



**HOUSE CRASHES**—The Oscar Abrahamson home toppled down the cliff under impetus of the Irving avenue slide last evening. Above at left is the house, photographed just an hour before it fell. At right, a photograph from almost the same spot after the fall. Below left, a more distant view of the house, showing how it came to rest just in front of the Lawrence Jackson home. Below right, a sample of what the slide has done to paving on 22nd street, the east edge of the slide. A-B Photos.



# First House Saved from Slide; Area Moves 17 Feet in 6 Days

At least one house had been definitely saved today from the still-moving Irving avenue slide and preparations went forward rapidly to save five and possibly six others.

The Charles Ordway home was lowered to the street at the corner of Irving and 21st and was being put on wheels today by the Lebeck moving company of Portland.

G. W. Bethell, manager of the company's Portland branch, said that the movers will now try to get the Lawrence Hansen and B. T. Larson homes down off the bank on the south side of the street.

## Route Bulldozed

The company was bulldozing a route down the bank today to move the two houses out.

The company propped up the Loren Kuske home on the north side of the street with cribbing and braces last night as the slide moved another four feet downhill.

The Kuske home will be pulled forward to the street as soon as

the Hansen and Larson homes are moved.

## Lean at Sharp Angles

Both these dwellings leaned at sharper angles as result of the slippage of the past 24 hours.

After they are moved out, the smaller Ralph Abrahamson and E. E. Rorabaugh homes will be moved out. These are in less danger.

The Lebeck company also hopes to move the Lawrence Jackson home, which must come a considerable distance uphill to Irving avenue.

## Plans Uncertain

All plans of the movers are subject to change, however, due to continuing movement of the earth, Bethell said.

The 4-foot slippage in the past 24 hours brought the total movement of the past six days to 17 feet, city engineers reported this morning.

The Lebeck company has a crew of about 20 men at work, with C. W. Sutton, Portland, as superintendent.

The company is using equip-

ment of Byers Brothers, Astoria contracting company. It is also using all the cribbing material it can find. In answer to appeals by the Red Cross which is financing the house moving project, the CRPA, the navy and Astoria Marine Construction company loaned material today for the job.

The Ordway home was moved down to the street late Wednesday. Two big timbers were placed under it, and it was rolled down a framework of cribbing material while a big bulldozer held it with a cable from rolling too fast down the slope.

The city administration today was still waiting for a bond to be submitted by the Lebeck company, guaranteeing against damage to streets and bridges in the moving operation. The \$40,000 bond was expected in today's mail from Portland.

Lebeck company officials said that this is the first job in their long experience as house movers that they have had to get houses out from land that was still sliding.



**FIRST HOUSE SAVED**—The Charles Ordway home was standing in the street at 21st and Irving this morning after being pulled safely from the slide area there. Upper view shows the house standing in the street. Below workmen of the Lebeck house moving company are putting wheels under the house preparatory to rolling it down Irving avenue. (A-B Photo)

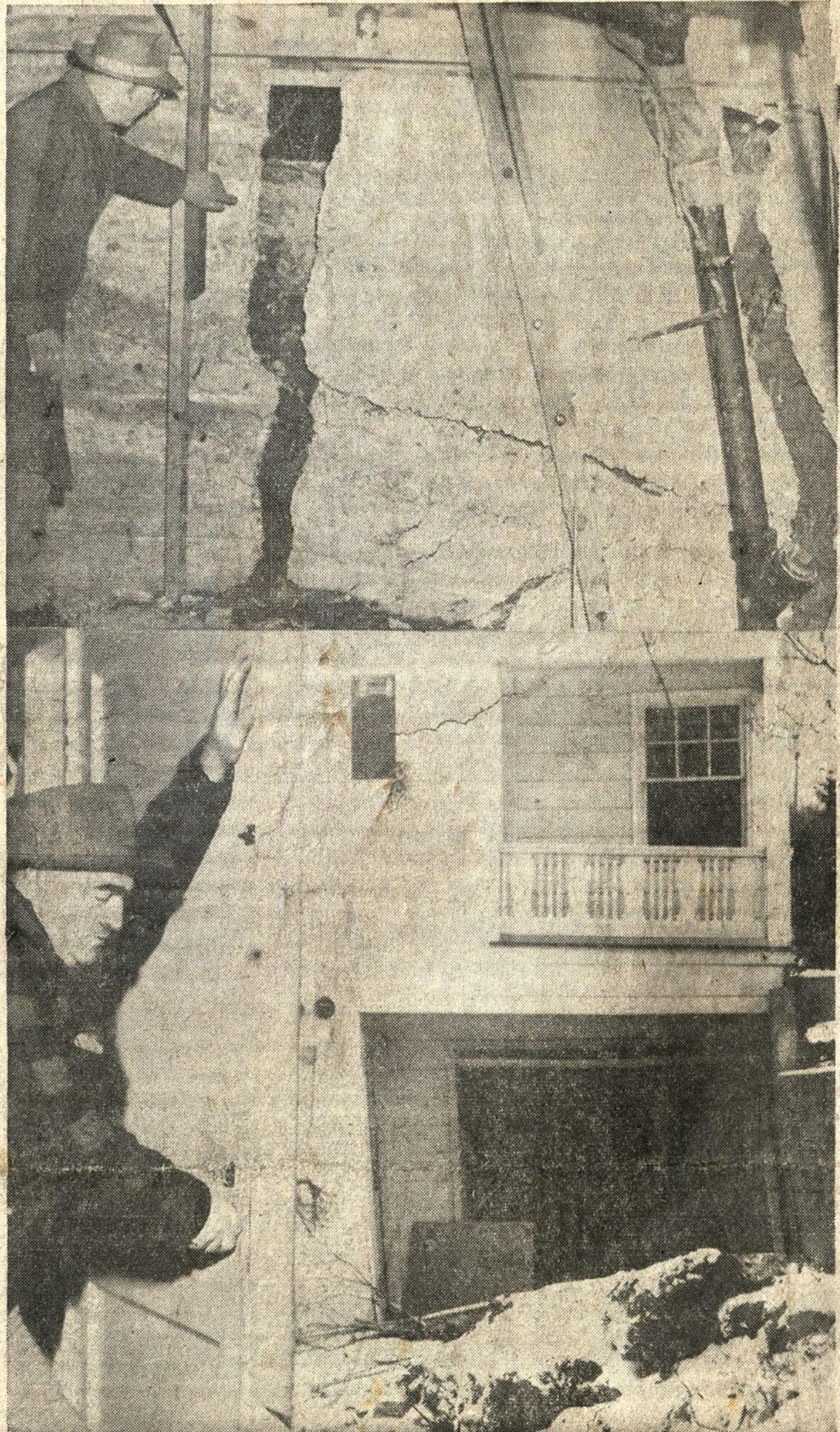


## From the Files

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APRIL 1950 — The stout Lawrence Jackson house rests 300 feet downhill from its Irving Avenue foundation, coming to rest in a patch of alders. The house was a victim of the Coxcomb Hill slide which had been oozing its way toward the Columbia River since late January.

Before it was finished, the slide claimed four houses and forced owners of 19 others in the 23rd and Irving vicinity to move their residences to other parts of Astoria. The same area was hit by a slide in January 1971, claiming additional houses.



**DESTRUCTION ON IRVING**—Upper photo shows a typically damaged basement on Irving avenue between 21st and 22nd, where the earth is slowly sliding downhill. The big crack is in the foundation wall of the home occupied by Lt. Comdr. and Mrs. A. F. Wayne. Lower left, Albert "Bud" Hansen has to use force to shut the front door of his home, badly bent by the slide. Lower right, the sagging garage door of the home from which the D. R. Rush family moved Monday.. This house has been abandoned and is being stripped of fixtures. (A-B Photo).

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN



108TH YEAR NO. 149

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1982

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25 CENTS

## Near-record rainfall racks area

### *Slide ruins house; roads, utilities cut*

A deluge that soaked the North Coast Friday and Saturday caused landslides that blocked Highways 30 and 101, shoved one Astoria house off its foundation and endangered several other houses.

Tons of earth on a steep bank below the 300 block of Floral Avenue began sliding into a house at 361 Alameda, owned by Ted Sarpola, about 4:45 a.m., Sarpola told The Daily Astorian. The rain-saturated earth pushed in basement siding and took out posts holding up the house, dropping the building off its foundation, said Sarpola, who was alone in the house at the time.

By 8 a.m., when city public works crews began working on a broken pipeline in the middle of the slide, the house had moved about 20 feet and come to rest with its smashed front porch on the city sidewalk. Mud damaged a back porch of the house next door to Sarpola's, owned by Wayne Salo, and flooded its basement.

OTHER HOUSES NEARBY had some water and mud in yards, but otherwise were undamaged. A house owned by Tony Williams at 364 Floral Ave. lost part of its back yard in the slide and city government officials evacuated it and a rental house next door, owned by George Brugh.

The hillside apparently was softened by the 4.92 inches of rain that fell during the 24-hour period that ended 10 a.m. Saturday. The National Weather Service called that a record since those data have been kept.

However, local historian Roger Tetlow said the record rainfall for Astoria, according to T.O. Withers, then a local weatherman, was 6.98 inches. That fell during one 24-hour period on Jan. 22, 1919, exactly 63 years to the day before this weekend's downpour.

As the hillside sloughed off, an 8-inch storm and sewer pipe that ran across the hill parted, City Manager Dale Curry said. Water spouted from the break for several hours, adding to the muddy mess behind Sarpola's house, until city public works crews stopped most of the flow.

Workers ran a 10-inch plastic pipe from a manhole near the slide to a manhole on Alameda Avenue to divert the water.

"I THINK WE'VE got things under control — if Mother Nature will cooperate," Curry said this morning. He praised the efforts of public works employees, firefighters and police.

The slide apparently has stabilized, he said, but the city can only "watch and wait."

Several other potential slide areas also are of concern, he said, including one near Second and Franklin streets, where a large crack has developed in a yard.

Sarpola said his furniture and other belongings in the first and second floors of his house escaped with little damage, but that some things in the basement were buried in mud. Friends and relatives helped him move out Saturday afternoon, with the help of a truck supplied by the city.

Sarpola, who is buying the house from his father, has no landslide insurance, he said. He is employed by Bumble Bee Seafoods and will be transferred to its Monroe, Wash., plant, when its cold storage plant here ceases operation, he said.

Police and firefighters were kept busy Saturday helping people with flooded basements, including one at 2063 Irving Ave., owned by Bill Lind. Lind got a double blow from Saturday's rain: He also owns an empty lot next door to the Williams' home on Floral — at the edge of the slide. Damage to Lind's furnace and basement contents totaled about \$2,000, police said.

FLOODING ALSO CAUSED damage "in the thousands" of dollars Saturday at the Clatsop Education Service District-Astoria School District headquarters building, 3194-3196 Marine Drive, Astoria, ESD Superintendent George Long said today.

Long said old ESD records and Astoria district paper supplies, like paper towels and copier paper stocks, were destroyed. Up to one foot of water accumulated, he said.

Slides and washouts played havoc with highways in Clatsop County. Highway 30 is open to cars and pickups only today after the roadbed washed out



A landslide early Saturday shoved a house at 361 Alameda Ave. in Astoria off its foundation.

The Daily Astorian—JAMES HOLMAN



Even Super Bowl XVI was less of an attraction Sunday afternoon to some than the washout on Highway 30 about 7.5 miles east of Astoria.

The Daily Astorian—BEN SILVERMAN

under the pavement of a 140- to 150-foot section of the highway about 7½ miles east of Astoria, said Eldon Everton, district engineer for the state Highway Division in Astoria. Traffic is being detoured around that washout.

Highway 101 was blocked in three places by slides. One just south of Hug Point occurred about 3:30 Sunday morning, pushing mud 15 feet high onto the road for about 200 feet, Everton said. Two private contractors were working to clear that slide and Everton said he expected it to be open by this afternoon.

TWO SLIDES OCCURRED near Neahkahnie

Mountain on Highway 101. One early Saturday blocked the highway at Milepost 28, but was cleared by early evening. However, early Sunday a second slide about 100 feet from the first again blocked traffic to all but emergency vehicles and people in Arch Cape. Contractors will begin working on that slide when they finish at Hug Point, Everton said.

In addition, this morning a section of Highway 101 near the north entrance to Cannon Beach dropped several inches and one lane of traffic has been blocked, Everton said.

See Storm, Page 4

### Boiled water advised

WARRENTON — City government officials here recommended today that users of the city's water system boil all drinking water because of silt washed into the system by heavy weekend rains.

The Warrenton water system serves about 4,500 people in Warrenton, Hammond, Clatsop Plains and Gearhart, city officials said. Officials recommended people in all those areas boil drinking water for the next 24 hours.

FILE WITH  
SKIDE HOUSE

SAFETY

# WEATHER & RECORDS

## LOCAL WEATHER

Compiled at Clatsop Airport  
by the National Weather Service  
RAINFALL

|                                      | RAINFALL     |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Total Sunday                         | .03 inch     |
| Total same date a year ago           | .08 inch     |
| Total this month                     | 1.90 inch    |
| Monthly total this date a year ago   | 1.20 inches  |
| Annual total, since Jan. 1           | 11.90 inch   |
| Annual total, this date a year ago   | 1.20 inches  |
| Seasonal total, since Sept. 1        | 45.79 inches |
| Seasonal total, this date a year ago | 30.80 inches |

## TEMPERATURES

|                        | TEMPERATURES  |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Low Sunday             | 42            |
| Low a year ago         | 37            |
| High Sunday            | 51            |
| High a year ago        | 51            |
| Low this morning       | 45            |
| Low Sunday at Seaside  | not available |
| High Sunday at Seaside | not available |

## WIND

|                                 | WIND    |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Average wind Sunday             | 8.0 mph |
| Average wind a year ago         | 7.1 mph |
| Peak gust at airport Sunday     | 16 mph  |
| Peak gust at airport a year ago | 15 mph  |

## TIDES

|                                   | TIDES               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Forecast for Tongue Point Tuesday |                     |
| High                              | 2:36 a.m. 7.4 feet  |
| Low                               | 7:37 a.m. 3.1 feet  |
| High                              | 1:57 p.m. 8.8 feet  |
| Low                               | 8:18 p.m. -0.5 feet |

## Tides recorded at Tongue Point Sunday

|      | Tides recorded at Tongue Point Sunday |
|------|---------------------------------------|
| High | 1:25 a.m. 8.1 feet                    |
| Low  | 7:00 a.m. 3.5 feet                    |
| High | 12:45 p.m. 9.2 feet                   |
| Low  | 7:45 p.m. 0.0 feet                    |

|  | FORECAST |
|--|----------|
| Rain tonight will slacken to showers and clearing periods Tuesday, according to the National Weather Service office at Clatsop County Airport. A 90 percent chance of measurable precipitation tonight will become 70 percent Tuesday. |          |

The high temperature Tuesday should be in the upper 40s after a low temperature tonight about 40 degrees.

Winds are expected to be from the south to southeast 20-30 mph, with stronger gusts tonight, easing to southwesterly to westerly 15-25 mph Tuesday.

Gale warnings continue in effect on the coasts of Oregon and Washington. Seas are expected to increase to 6-10 feet tonight; long ocean swells are out of the west 10-15 feet.

## Obituary

### Benjamin F. Bonser

July 19, 1895-Jan. 22, 1982

Benjamin F. Bonser, 86, Seaside, died Friday in an Astoria nursing home.

The son of Thomas W. and Hattie Bell (Clark) Bonser, he was born July 19, 1895, in Grand Rapids, Mich. He attended school in Grand Rapids and Comstock, Mich. Following his education he worked as a house painter in Michigan for several years and then moved to Clatskanie in 1928 where he lived and worked as a painter. He returned to Michigan for a short time, then moved to Seaside in 1968, shortly after his retirement.

Surviving are three daughters, Virginia Wingenbach, Seaside, Leona Bohm, Astoria, and Shirley Olsen, Portland; a son, Thomas grandchildren; twelve great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral will be 2 p.m. Tuesday from Hughes-Ransom Mortuary, Seaside.

### Jack Littlejohn

June 20, 1903-Jan. 22, 1982

Jack Littlejohn, 78, Gearhart, formerly of Astoria, died Friday in a Portland hospital. He was born June 20, 1903, in Kentucky and was a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy during World Wars I and II.

He was a life member of the Retired Officers Association, U.S. Navy; Harbor Lodge 183 AF & AM, Astoria; Seaside Post 43 American Legion; and Seaside Elks Lodge

1748.

Surviving are his wife, Lucile, Gearhart; three stepdaughters, Patricia Purcer, Portland, Marjorie Blanchard, Salem, and Karen Hoyt, Beaverton; a stepson, Maj. James Hansen, El Toro, Calif.; ten grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral will be today at 1 p.m. at Haakinson-Groulx Mortuary, Clatskanie, with interment to follow at Murray Hill Cemetery. Contributions may be to St. Vincent Medical Foundation, St. Vincent Hospital, Portland.

### Dorothy L. Moberg

April 10, 1914-Jan. 23, 1982

Dorothy L. Moberg, 67, an area resident for many years, died Saturday in a Portland hospital.

The daughter of Oscar L. and Cora E. Kline Wahlstrom, she was born April 10, 1914, in Portland. She came to Astoria as a child and attended Astoria schools. Following her schooling she went to work in hospitals in Southern Oregon and California.

In 1938 she returned to this area and had worked in Warrenton area canneries until ill health forced her to retire.

On August 21, 1939, she married Laurence Moberg in Kelso, Wash. He died Sept. 26, 1977.

Surviving is a sister, Anna Basel, Astoria; several nieces and nephews, Harlene Lloyd, Banks, Nancy Cerrighino, Gladstone, Linda Wahlstrom, Astoria, Teresa Johnson, Nehalem, Ray Basel, Kodiak, Alaska, Robert Basel, Port-

## Another storm ends 1-day dry spell

By The Associated Press

The National Weather Service says little or no rainfall in Western Oregon Sunday and overnight allowed streams that were near or over flood stage to begin receding.

But the weather service says the dry spell is about over. A vigorous looking Pacific weather system was edging toward the Pacific Northwest.

At 5 a.m. the main precipitation band with the storm was still offshore, but approaching rapidly. Rain was forecast to increase over western sections during the day, likely changing to showers overnight.

The weather service said rainfall from the system will not approach totals recorded in western sections on Friday and Saturday.

The freezing level was forecast to remain above 6,000 feet over Oregon today, but expected to lower to about 4,000 feet Tuesday as cool air begins to spread over the state.

Small craft advisories were out for coastal waters with gale warnings a

possibility.

### Oregon forecast

Oregon Coast — South to southeast wind 20 to 40 mph with higher gusts through tonight. Wind west to southwest 15 to 30 mph Tuesday. Local seas increasing to 3 to 6 feet. Long ocean swells west 7 to 11 feet. Rain increasing during the day changing to showers tonight. Showers and clearing periods Tuesday. Highs upper 40s to low 50s Tuesday. Lows upper 30s to low 40s.

Willamette Valley — Increasing chance of rain. Rain turning to showers overnight. Showers and clearing periods Tuesday. Highs near 50 Tuesday. Lows about 40.

Southwest Interior — Rain likely tonight. Scattered showers and clearing periods Tuesday. Highs near 50 through mid 40s Tuesday. Lows near 40.

North Oregon Cascades — Increasing rain, turning to snow showers overnight. Snow at times Tuesday. Snow fall level above 6,000

feet lowering to 3,500 feet Tuesday.

South Oregon Cascades — Chance of rain late in day with rain likely tonight. Showers of rain or snow Tuesday. Snowfall level above 7,000 feet lowering to near 4,000 feet Tuesday.

Columbia Gorge — Rain at times tonight turning to scattered showers

Tuesday. Highs 50 to 55 through mid 40s Tuesday. Lows 35 to 40.

Columbia Basin Plateau — Rain at times tonight. Few showers and clearing periods Tuesday. Highs cooling to mid 40s Tuesday. Lows tonight near 40. Variable wind 5 to 15 mph today.

## Coast begins to dry out

By The Associated Press

Oregonians were drying out this morning after Saturday's heavy rains that closed major highways and forced about 40 people from their homes along the state's coastline.

But the National Weather Service was predicting that more rain would spread into the state by tonight.

In Garibaldi, most residents were able to return to their homes that had been flooded or threatened by high water on Saturday, said Bob Carlson, a Tillamook County

sheriff's dispatcher.

U.S. 101 remained blocked in two places by large mudslides this morning. The closures were just north of Rockaway and about 10 miles north of Manzanita, sheriff's officers said.

Motorists were able to use detours over county roads around the closures.

Traffic was restricted to one lane on several other stretches of the coastal highway.

Tillamook received 5.22 inches of rain in the 24 hours ending at 4 p.m. Saturday. The National Weather Service said 2 to 4 inches of rain was common during the storm elsewhere along the coast.

Garibaldi had been virtually isolated Sunday morning by the closure of U.S. 101 north and south of the town.

even on Sunday...



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### The Daily Astorian

Established July 1, 1873

USPS 035-000

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## SCRIPTURE MUSIC CONCERT

With DON & FAITH DUNLAP - Two years ago they thrilled an audience at the SEASIDE CONVENTION CENTER.

## Selected noon stocks

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market posted a broad loss today amid new concern over the outlook for interest rates.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials dropped 8.84 to 826.19 by 2 p.m. today.

Losers held a 4-1 lead over gainers in the overall tally of New York Stock Exchange-listed issues.

their credit-tightening by the Fed

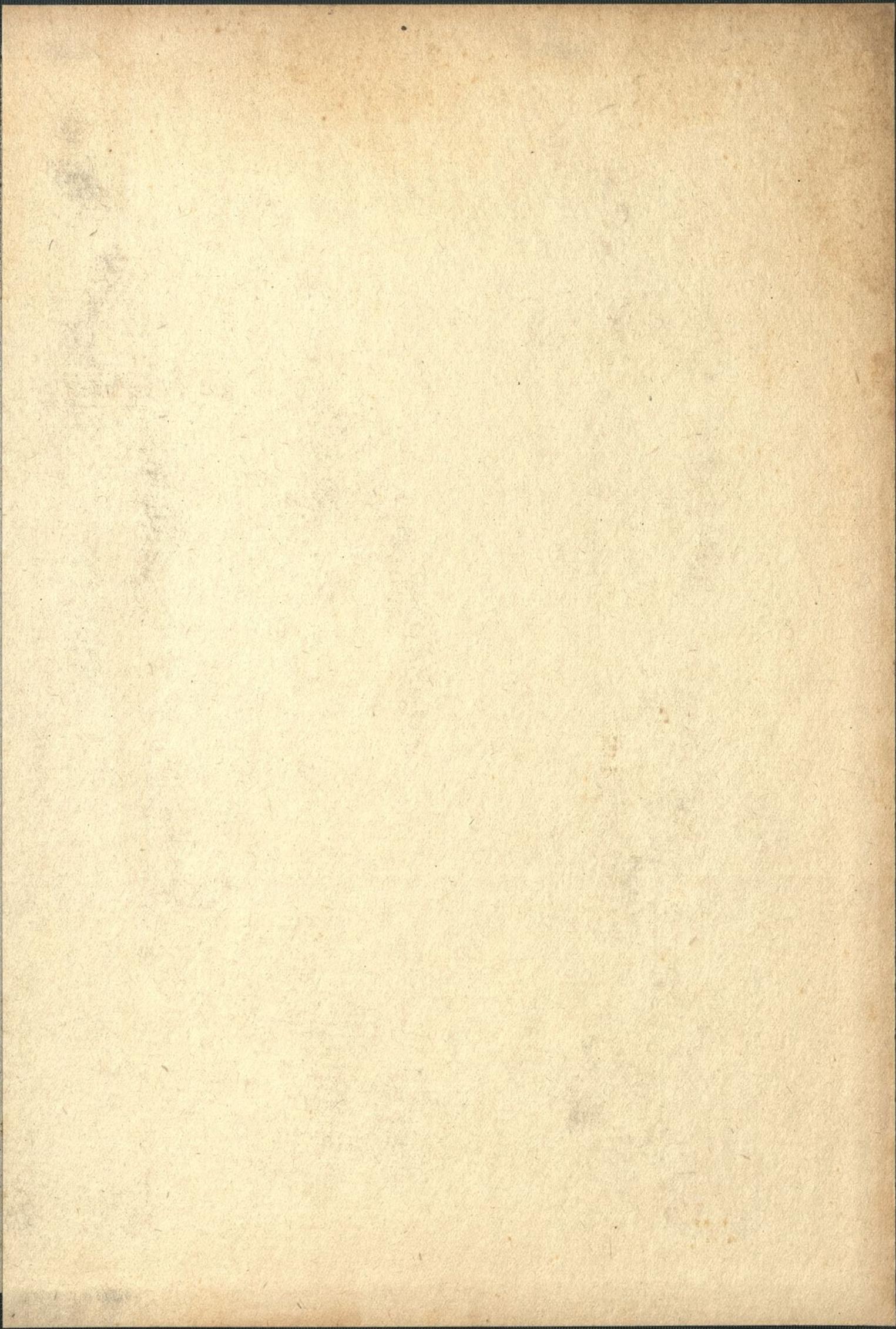


## *AAUW honors three chapter members*

Daily Astorian

The Hobson house, built in 1863 and Astoria's oldest residence in continuous family ownership, is the setting for an afternoon tea with the three Astoria branch AAUW members in whose names a \$500 grant to the Oregon Endowed Fellowship fund will be given at the AAUW state convention at Hood River, April 25. Marjorie Halderman, left, is

granddaughter of John Hobson, builder of the home at 469 Bond. Mrs. Harry Swanson Jr. lives in the Ben Young House, 3652 Duane Street, which has also been in continuous family ownership since built in 1888. Vera Gault, 1393 Franklin Avenue, undertook restoration of the Judge Charles Page house, built in 1879, and has made it her home since 1967.



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Jackson, Lawrence

Astoria, Oregon. 1950 slide on Irving St



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